

Iran, Iraq end another round of talks

GENEVA (R) — Iran and Iraq Sunday ended four days of inconclusive ministerial talks on ways to turn their eight-month ceasefire into a peace settlement, each blaming the other for the stalemate. They held a total of five hours of so-called "proximity talks" chaired by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who admitted that no progress had been achieved. After the latest round of negotiations ended at the United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva, Perez de Cuellar said both sides reaffirmed a commitment to uphold a U.N.-brokered ceasefire which ended eight years of war in the Gulf. Perez de Cuellar said he would try to convene another round of ministerial negotiations in June. "But we have made no real progress... although the process continues," he added. He said the main stumbling-blocks had been identified. "and it is now up to us to iron out the difficulties." Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told reporters: "I cannot ignore the fact that we haven't made any progress." He accused Iran of not abiding by the spirit and letter of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which forms the basis of a peace plan before the two delegations.

Jordan Times

An independent daily publication Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة جوردانية للرأي

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Volume 14 Number 4069

AMMAN MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989, RAMADAN 18, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Cabinet reviews events, praises Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, held a meeting Saturday evening to discuss the unhappy events that took place in some of the Kingdom's cities, and listened to a report about these events from the ministers of information and interior.

The Cabinet also expressed its highest appreciation for the intensified and continuous effort of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who served as Regent, in his supervision and follow-up on the containment of the events.

Kuwait voices full support for Jordan

KUWAIT (Petra) — Jordan's security and stability are vital for the whole Arab region, and Kuwait stands solidly in support of the Kingdom, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said.

Sheikh Saad noted that the region was witnessing many events and facing many challenges and utmost care should be exercised to stabilise the situation in the region and support the march towards Arab solidarity. Sheikh Saad described the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories as a white page in the struggle of the Palestinian people and said it had attracted world-wide attention and support. He expressed optimism that the present American Administration would show understanding of the national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

Arafat, Mitterrand to meet in Paris in May

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will pay his first official visit to France in early May for talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday.

Mitterrand had previously declared his intention to meet Arafat in France this year. State-run Radio France International reported Saturday Arafat would be in Paris May 2 and 3.

Dumas, in a radio interview Sunday, confirmed that the visit would take place in "the first days of May." "It is an official visit since it has been organised by the head of state," he said. The PLO's drive for international support has gathered pace since it recognised Israel's right to exist and rejected terrorism last December. Arafat has met Pope John Paul and Western European leaders, but his official visit to France, one of the three permanent Western members of the U.N. Security Council, represents a major diplomatic coup. The United States and Britain have announced no plans to receive him at the highest level.

Shamir unhappy
Interviewed on French Television, Dumas said France remains "a close friend of Israel." But Israeli Prime Minister Shamir said in an interview with Israeli army radio that he sees the planned visit "with gravity." "President Mitterrand presents himself as a friend of Israel, but what he does today totally opposes any friendly treatment of Israel," Shamir said. Dumas said France takes into account Israel's concerns, but also "the reality of the Palestinian people." He said the actions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) last year in Algiers and statements by Arafat in December accepting the right of Israel to exist and renouncing terrorism made the visit possible. Dumas noted that Arafat already has made official visits to Greece, Spain and Italy, and has been received by Pope John Paul II. Dumas and other French foreign ministers have met with Arafat on several occasions, but never before in Paris.

De Mita sees chance for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Italy's Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita arrived here Sunday, saying that Arabs have moderated their stance towards Israel and the chance to open Middle East peace talks should not be lost. At a red-carpet welcoming ceremony, de Mita said Italy was always "pursued a sound and open dialogue with all the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict."

"The international scene, marked by... the recent evolution towards moderation by some of the parties involved in the dispute, has laid the foundations for favourable developments which must not be neglected."

In his brief remarks he did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by name, but Italy has long favoured peace talks with the PLO. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is a staunch opponent of such dialogue. In a welcoming speech Shamir said Israel would seek "increased bilateral cooperation to bring peace to our region."

De Mita, accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, was greeted by Shamir and Vice Premier Shimon Peres. The army's honour guard did not fire the customary 21-gun salute, fearing that the gunshots might cause local residents into believing there was an attack, Israeli Radio reported. De Mita is here on a 48-hour visit that will include talks with Shamir, Peres, President Chaim Herzog and leading Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir is expected to seek European support for Palestinian elections. De Mita's visit is the first by any European leader since Shamir outlined his elections plan to U.S. President George Bush in Washington earlier this month. Shamir aide Yossi Ahimeir said: "The prime minister will emphasise the only role the Europeans can play is to convince Arafat states to adopt Mr. Shamir's plan and to encourage the Arabs to come to the negotiating table for direct talks."

De Mita's visit reciprocates one by Shamir to Italy 14 months ago, when he faced protests over Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising. Italy was the first European Community state to receive PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat after last November's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state. Israeli officials say privately they hope the Italians will say Shamir's election proposal is worthy of consideration. "The visit might become quite important because it will be the first opportunity to convince the Europeans, if not to give full support to what is becoming a U.S.-Israeli idea, then at least to keep the door open," a foreign ministry source said.



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday (Petra photo)

Iraqi leader pays brief visit to Jordan King reassures Iraqi president on situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein paid a brief working visit to Jordan Sunday evening during which His Majesty King Hussein briefed him on the situation in the wake of the recent regrettable incidents in the Kingdom and reassured the Iraqi leader that Jordan would continue to remain a fortress safeguarding Arab interests in the face of all threats and challenges. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reaffirmed that Jordan would continue to remain committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and defend its sister members in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as well as any other Arab country against any threats.

The King said he was determined to deal with the root causes behind the events in Jordan in a very short time and with all available means, relying on the awareness of the people and their sense of responsibility towards the country and its future, Petra said. The King also briefed the Iraqi leader on the outcome of his recent visits to France and the United States and the impressions he gained from his meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand, U.S. President George Bush and other senior American officials, Petra said. The King's talks with President Hussein and an iftar His Majesty hosted for the Iraqi leader were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

The Iraqi president, who left shortly after the iftar, was accompanied by Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nusseif Jassem.

33, mostly children, wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Israeli forces shot and wounded 33 Palestinians, mostly children or teenagers, in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday in a fresh outbreak of violence which has intensified during the fasting month of Ramadan. Palestinians and hospitals said soldiers opened fire during stone-throwing protests which erupted in several districts after masked Palestinians began setting up roadblocks and scrawling graffiti on walls. At least 24 of the 33 injured were children or teenagers. Palestinians said the casualties included a four-year-old, two six-year-olds and an eight-year-old, all from the Daraj district of Gaza City.

In the occupied West Bank, police summoned 35 Jewish settlers for questioning after arson attacks and window-smashing in Kharbata village Saturday night in retaliation for alleged Palestinian stone-throwing. The settlers, from the nearby 190-member Nili settlement, were suspected of burning down two stores and shooting holes in water tanks in the village. Underground leaders of the 16-month-old uprising had urged Palestinians to escalate attacks from Sunday to Tuesday. The Islamic Resistance Movement in Gaza dedicated the violence to the Badr Battle in the year 624 when Muslims, led by the Prophet Mohammad, defeated non-believers.

Violent protests have increased in the Gaza Strip, a bastion of Islamic fundamentalism, since Ramadan two weeks ago and five Palestinians were killed in a raid by border police on the West Bank village of Nahalin. Hospitals said 10 people were wounded in three districts of Gaza City, six in Khan Younis, six in Beit Hanoun, three in Jabalya camp, three in Nuseirat camp, two in Sha'ti camp, two in Rafah town, and one in Moghazi camp.



Scores of people queue for bread in a Beirut bakery.

King returns home after U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Sunday morning following a five-day working visit to the U.S.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo).

During his visit, King Hussein held talks with U.S. President George Bush, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney as well as senior administration officials and a large number of U.S. congressmen.

The discussions covered the latest developments on the international level, the Middle East issue and Jordanian-U.S. relations. The talks stressed the importance of reviving and following up efforts aimed at securing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which state the principle of exchanging land for peace and guaranteeing the security of all states in the region and the attainment of the rights of the Palestinian people.

During a visit to New York, King Hussein delivered a lecture at the Council of Foreign Relations on the general situation in the Middle East, in particular about the Arab-Israeli conflict, clarifying Jordan's position vis-a-vis the peace process.

The speakers also expressed great appreciation for His Majesty's efforts towards achieving peace in the Middle East. Studies lauded King Hussein's wisdom and courage as well as efforts he exerted in building and developing Jordan. They also praised Jordan's achievements under His Majesty's leadership, which combined the traditional with the modern, and the Kingdom's progress despite all obstacles and difficulties.

The new U.S. administration expressed its deep appreciation for Jordan's effective and constructive role under the leadership of King Hussein, a role aimed at finding a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, stressing Washington's intention to support Jordan in the military and economic fields.

During his visit, King Hussein also met with editors of the Washington Post and the American television networks CNN and ABC and explained the basic pillars that form the general framework of Jordan's position towards the latest developments in the Middle East issue, taking into consideration the dynamics and latest political events, namely the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of Resolution 242 and the organisation's willingness to participate in negotiations aimed at finding a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King also visited Boston where he received an honorary doctorate degree in law from the University of Boston. At the ceremony the university's president, John Seebler, and former U.S. Ambassador Herman Ailis — who currently heads the university's centre for Middle East

His Majesty said: "Jordan (which) has always supported the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, cannot but reaffirm this support and advance the positive direction and steps which have been chosen / the organisation's leadership aimed at realising the aspirations of the Palestinian people by regaining their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the right of determining their future."

King Hussein explained Jordan's contribution to that process in crystallising the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace in the face of extremist conflicts that have thus far deprived the area of the peace.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance presented King Hussein to the audience, highlighting King Hussein's status at the regional and international levels and his constant endeavours to achieve peace. He also spoke of Jordan's large role in international relations, a role which has given the Kingdom an important weight surpassing the country's geographic and material size.

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Receiving King Hussein and Queen Noor upon their arrival were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, senior civil and military officials, the ambassadors of ACC states in Amman and the French and American charge d'affaires in Amman.

Shells pound Beirut amid ceasefire hopes

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shells slammed into Beirut and nearby hilltop towns early Sunday as Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss called for political reforms ahead of Arab League efforts to end the 14-year-old civil war.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had agreed to give Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a mandate to seek peace in Lebanon.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said a French tanker with much-needed fuel docked at the refinery of Zaharani after waiting offshore for more than a week for permission to berth.

Dumas said in a French television interview that the 10 other members of the council were now being asked to support the proposal, which would direct Perez de Cuellar to work with the Arab League in searching for a resolution to the longstanding conflict.

The tanker was to unload a third of its 6,000 tonnes of fuel at the refinery in South Lebanon and then head north to unload the rest at the power station of Zouk, the sources said. Artillery shells blasted residential areas in east Beirut and towns nearby, renewing a barrage which was killed at least 280 people in the past six weeks.

"Last night, at France's request, the five representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council agreed on the proposal I made giving Mr. Perez de Cuellar a mandate to intervene in Lebanon," Dumas said. The text of the French proposal has not been made public. Diplomatic sources at the United States said it called for a ceasefire to end the latest round of fighting, expressed "grave concern" for the residents of Beirut and reaffirmed support for the Arab League efforts to negotiate peace in Lebanon.

Shells also exploded at the port of Jounieh in sporadic attacks which ended before dawn. Sunday was the sixth day of a relative lull during which Beirut's 1.5 million people, fearing new bombardments, have stockpiled food and piled more sandbags around their homes and shelters.

Hoss told Al Diyar newspaper that Muslims should be given more say in a Christian-dominated system under which traditionally the president has been a Christian and the prime minister a Sunni Muslim.

He said Arab League foreign ministers, who meet in Tunis Wednesday to try to resolve the crisis, should seek an end to a blockade of militia ports imposed last month by the rival military administration of Major-General Michel Aoun. The blockade sparked the fiercest artillery duels of the war, pitting Aoun's troops against Syrian forces and Lebanese militias.

Al Diyar, an independent paper based in east Beirut, said the Arab League meeting would be "the compass which will determine the path that the crisis will follow." Western diplomats said some European countries, particularly France which this month sent a hospital ship to evacuate scores of wounded civilians, felt the United Nations make mediation efforts if the Arab League initiative failed.

But Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, head of the Arab League mediating committee, said Saturday there was no need for other international involvement.

Officials here said Sharaa was expected to meet President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan during the two-day visit. The trip came four days ahead of the emergency meeting of the Arab League council on Lebanon.

The UAE is a member of the six-member committee entrusted with finding a settlement for the crisis in Lebanon. It is headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. The other members are Jordan, Sudan, Algeria and Tunisia.

The Arab League council might call for an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the crisis. Envoys of King Hassan II of Morocco were touring Arab capitals lobbying support for convening such a meeting next month. (See page 2).

Morocco launches campaign for summit

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

RABAT — King Hassan has launched a diplomatic drive for an emergency Arab summit in Morocco next month to rally support behind the new Palestinian peace strategy.

Diplomats said the summit would bring together Egypt and Syria for the first time in a decade and would implicitly back Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"The king is going all out for a summit. It would be a moderate, history-making summit. He is one of the few Arab leaders who could pull this off," said a senior Western diplomatic source.

"The decisions of this summit would put an end to any existing doubt regarding the unambiguous Arab will to build peace and to live peacefully with all states in the area," King Hassan said in a speech last month.

Three of the king's close advisers are touring Middle East capitals to sound out Arab leaders on the summit.

Diplomats say Syria is willing to attend, but that problems still remained over what formula to

Washington to make more concessions and from Palestinian hardliners who feel he has already gone too far.

In order to open a dialogue with the United States, Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist, accepted U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and renounced terrorism.

Syrian backing for his peace strategy would greatly strengthen Arafat's hand, Palestinian sources say.

Arafat, recently elected president of Palestine, sees the summit as the next step on the road to holding an international Middle East peace conference — the main plank in the PLO's peace plan.

"The fact the king has come out into the open on this must mean things are going his way. If I had to bet, I would say there will be a summit and it will have an outcome viewed favourably by Washington," a U.S. diplomatic source said.

Washington would like Arab backing for Arafat's new strategy to browbeat the Israelis into making some concessions.

Diplomats say many people feel the time is right for a summit on the Palestinian question.

Morocco has been awash with rumours for months that the king



King Hassan II

was planning a spectacular Middle East peace initiative, but the issue came out into the open when Arafat unexpectedly arrived in the country two weeks ago.

Well-informed sources say the king told Arafat of the positive Syrian attitude and sought to allay his fears that there would be no summit at all if Saudi Arabia's King Fahd did not act soon.

King Hassan — who has been in close contact with both Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Fahd — had already given the green light to go for the emergency summit, the sources say.

A successful summit would be a triumphant return to the centre stage of Arab politics for King Hassan who was shunned by many countries after he met Shimon Peres, then Israeli prime minister, in the summer of 1986.

Kabul, Islamabad in war of words

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai threatened in an interview published Sunday to rocket Pakistan in retaliation for increasing rebel attacks in Afghanistan.

The official Afghan news agency Bakhtar quoted him as saying that Pakistan's military involvement in the Afghan war was undeniable.

"Therefore, Afghanistan can give itself the right to display a similar reaction to the attacks of foreign states," he said.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told reporters in the north-western city of Peshawar that if the war was brought across the border Pakistan was capable of dealing with it.

Tanai's interview, monitored in Islamabad, was the most direct of a series of warnings to Pakistan since the last Soviet troops pulled out in mid-February.

He cited frequent rocket attacks on Kabul and other towns as signs of what he called rebel attempts to escalate the 10-year-old war and said Pakistani military interference had "remarkably increased" during the past two months.

The patience shown by Afghanistan is not endless," he said, and added: "The Pakistani side should understand that the

soil of Pakistan, like Afghanistan, can be subjected to rocket attacks as well."

Pakistan has supported the Mujahadeen rebels for years. But it denies Kabul's charges that its troops are fighting alongside them in recent intensified onslaughts in eastern Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is in no way involved in this war," Bhutto said in Peshawar. "But if the war is spread across the Pakistan border and whatever step is taken in this direction, we are capable enough to give a reply. We will give a reply."

The New York Times reported Monday that the rebel assault on the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad was ordered by the Pakistani government with the knowledge of the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad.

The attack on Jalalabad was ordered against the advice of the Pakistani director of military intelligence, the newspaper reported. There was no Afghan present March 5 when the decision was made.

The assault on the town began March 6, the night after the meeting, and is now mired in its seventh week.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official denied the newspaper report.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia gives PLO \$12 million

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has donated \$12 million to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh was quoted Sunday as saying. Saudi Arabia made the payment in two instalments, the Saudi Press Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted envoy Rafiq Al Natsha as saying. Riyadh said in December it would pay the PLO \$6 million a month to back the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, now in its 17th month. A Saudi Arabian commitment made in 1978 to pay the PLO a total of \$850 million expired in January.

Food poisoning hits Kuwaiti guardsmen

KUWAIT (R) — Seventy-three Kuwaiti National Guard trainees were rushed to hospital Saturday suffering from food poisoning, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The trainees, who all ate the same meal to end the daily fast of the holy month of Ramadan, were released within two hours. On April 8, 391 Kuwaiti police cadets became violently sick after eating a Ramadan meal prepared by a local catering company, KUNA said.

S. Arabia pardons hundreds to mark Ramadan

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia pardoned hundreds of prisoners when the holy month of Ramadan began April 6 and more are expected to be freed before it ends. "Hundreds of prisoners have been freed on the first of Ramadan," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Sunday quoted Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmad Ibn Abdul Aziz as saying. Prince Ahmad said he expected several more prisoners would be freed by the end of the fasting month in May. He thanked wealthy Saudi people "who paid prisoners' debts and enabled a large number of prisoners to return home after spending several months in jail."

18 extremists indicted in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A group of 18 Muslim fundamentalists, including four minors, were indicted and referred to court Saturday in connection with recent unrest at a Cairo area where five people were killed. The semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said the defendants were charged with possessing weapons and explosives for use in breaking the law and public order, endangering people's lives and resorting to force and violence in resisting law enforcers. The penalties for the charges range between execution and life imprisonment, according to Al Ahram. The 14 adults were referred to a state security court and the four minors to a juvenile court under the same charges. The charges were made in connection with last August unrest in Cairo's working-class district of E'm Shams where two police officers and three civilians were killed. More than 3000 extremists were arrested at the time. The government said most were affiliated with Jihad, an underground Muslim fundamentalist group blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat and a subsequent abortive coup attempt.

Bodies of Kurdish rebels found in dump

ISTANBUL (R) — Three bodies and a head, presumed to be the remains of four Kurdish rebels, were found Saturday buried near Sirt in southeast Turkey in a municipal dump. The semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Sirt prosecutor Mustafa Erdogan as saying the bodies belonged to "terrorists" killed in a clash with security forces. Such terms generally refer to guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers Party, who launched an armed rebellion in 1984, since when more than 1,300 people have been killed.

Sudanese militants attack destitute home

KHARTOUM (R) — Islamic militants in Sudan attacked a Roman Catholic centre for the destitute and dying on Saturday, killing a nun and three other people seriously, a Khartoum newspaper reported Sunday.

The English-language Sudan Times said members of the National Islamic Front (NIF) stormed out of the mosque opposite after Friday prayers and attacked the hospice in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman.

The newspaper said the militants saw the attack as the first step in an all out war against the government for refusing to impose strict Islamic law on the country.

They accused the church of supporting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who have been fighting since 1983 against what they see as domination of the south by the north.

The newspaper quoted Sister Maria Victoria of the centre as saying that the attackers shouted at her and threw stones that hit her on the head and wrist, and smashed the windows of the centre's landlows.

The centre houses some 140 homeless poor and sick people and runs a feeding programme for malnourished children of shanty towns ringing Khartoum where many southern refugees live. Fifty inmates were present

when the mob burst in but only 10 have stayed. The remainder fearing fresh attacks by militants have run away in fright, the Sudan Times said.

The newspaper quoted Sister Victoria who is being treated for two head injuries and a broken wrist, as saying they were rescued by neighbours who rushed out shouting, forcing the mob to disperse.

Mahjoub Talha, the commissioner general of Khartoum province, said Saturday that such incidents will not be allowed to occur again and the culprits would be punished.

Railway paralysed

Sudan's railway network was paralysed Sunday due to a strike by employees demanding arrears of salary, a Khartoum newspaper reported.

The Al Ayam newspaper said Sudan railways' 33,000 workers obeyed a call for a five day strike Saturday and reported it was 100 per cent successful.

Sudan Railways Corporation said money to pay salaries was on its way but Al Ayam said workers had been promised payment by management several times and nothing had materialised.

Sudan railways is the country's biggest employer and moves about a million tonnes of freight annually, including much needed food aid for starving refugees in the war-torn south.

Guarded optimism brightens U.S. view of Mideast



George Bush

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush, buoyed by a round of talks with key Middle East leaders, sees a ray of hope for peace in the region but big obstacles remain.

"We've got some pretty healthy political discussion going on," said a State Department Middle East policy planner.

The official, who asked not to be identified, referred to the president's meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel and His Majesty King Hussein, as well as the new U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Bush told reporters Thursday that Shamir's proposal for elections in the occupied territories "offers some promise" of advancing the Middle East peace process.

But outside experts said the next phase of Bush's step-by-step peacemaking approach — fleshing out the proposal — will pose a real challenge for the U.S. administration.

"There are several differences between the United States and Israel and they are critical differences that have to be addressed," said Fred Axilgard, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a private think-tank.

The proposal calls for elections to select Palestinians to work out arrangements with Israel for limited self-govern-

ment in the occupied territories.

After an undefined transition period when the Palestinians would run their own affairs under Israeli military control, it envisions negotiations on the core issue — a permanent solution of the Palestinian problem.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said Thursday he would accept internationally supervised elections on the West Bank before a complete Israeli withdrawal, but only if they were part of a package that led to complete Palestinian self-determination.

"The election (is) not (to be) followed by negotiations. The election is a part of exercising of our people for their self-determination," Arafat said in a television interview.

"The question now is can the Israelis be moved to accept conditions for such elections and negotiations to make the proposal a practical one?" Robert Neumann, a former American ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said in an interview.

While Neumann estimated that there was only a one-in-five chance the election plan would succeed, he applauded the administration's determination to explore it.

"It is the function of diplomacy to explore every avenue and I think the president is right to look into it," he said.

When asked how he would follow up on his discussions with Mubarak, the King and Shamir, Bush said he planned to talk to more Middle Eastern

leaders.

U.S. officials said backstage diplomacy would first clarify the Israeli plan.

"We want to know what kind of elections would be held, how they would be linked to negotiations, who would participate and how they would be supervised," one policymaker said.

He said no deadline had been set but independent analysts said Bush probably had only until mid-summer before he had to decide on his next move.

They said the U.S. effort to move the peace process along had to show some results fairly soon to stave off pressure on Arafat from the PLO's hardline wing to abandon the diplomatic track.

Hardline theologians rally behind Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A hardline Iranian theological group is backing Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani as a candidate for the presidency, which falls vacant later this year.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the daily newspaper Resalat as saying the Jame Rulaniyate Mubarez (Assembly of Combatant Theologians) unanimously backed the speaker's candidacy.

Rafsanjani, who also serves as acting commander in chief of the armed forces and was regarded one of the leading so-called pragmatists in the Tehran hierarchy, already has announced his candidacy.

A presidential election is due in late summer. President Ali Khamenei, whose second four-year term expires in September, is not eligible to run for a third four-year term under the constitution.

Rafsanjani also has received backing from another hardline group, Ruhaniyune Mubarez (Combatant Theologians).

But their support was announced before the purge of moderates that followed Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Feb. 14 death threat against British author Salman

Rushdie and his campaign to revive fundamentalist fervor. The death decree was issued on the ground that Rushdie blasphemed against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Rafsanjani initially appeared reluctant to back Khomeini in a move that effectively cut Iran's newly restored ties with the West, but later fell in line.

A skilled political manoeuvre, he is credited with masterminding Iran's acceptance of the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the war with Iraq that took effect last Aug. 20.

On Friday, Rafsanjani announced that a U.S. spy network that included senior naval officers who allegedly betrayed Iranian warship movements in the Gulf, had been uncovered.

He said the alleged network also was involved in plots to overthrow Khomeini's fundamentalist government and that the arrests had exposed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) activities across the Middle East.

The accuracy of the speaker's claims was impossible to verify. But his announcement appeared intended to stir anti-Western sentiment to deflect attention from political developments and serious economic problems.

Hardliners like Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi have tightened their grip on power recently at the expense of moderates like Rafsanjani, who has sought to build bridges to the West to end Iran's isolation after the eight-year Gulf war.

Rafsanjani recently has been touring military bases calling for support for Khomeini.

His position as acting commander-in-chief was eroded last month, when Khomeini appointed one of his aides as the commander of the 350,000-strong Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Internal power struggle
Rafsanjani and his allies have also been seeking to amend the constitution to give the presidency more power by abolishing the post of prime minister, currently held by Hussein Musavi.

The presidency is one of several competing power centres in Iran, and the diversity of decision-making has intensified the internal power-struggle.

The Tehran Times said Sunday the abolition of the post of prime minister will allow the Iranian executive to perform better.

The English-language newspaper which is close to the foreign ministry, said "the omission of the post of premier... will end the



Rafsanjani

present bifurcate nature of the executive body and as such will be a boost to a better performance by the body."

The proposal to omit the post of prime minister from a new Iranian constitution was seen by those in favour "as facilitating cooperation with the nation's chief, the president," the newspaper said in an editorial.

"But some are" against the proposal as they think this will no longer allow the Majlis (parliament) to give its vote of confidence to the president's choice for premiership," IRNA quoted the editorial as saying.

"The amendments may... make it possible for the Majlis to enjoy its right of overseeing the operations of the government," the Tehran Times added.

Iran hits Bush, media over alleged CIA spies

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Sunday the uncovering of a U.S. espionage network was the first defeat for President George Bush in Iran.

It also criticised Western media coverage of the spy report, singling out the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Voice of America and Radio Islam.

The Farsi-language daily Abrar said: "The discovery of the latest espionage ring is not the first U.S. defeat in Iran but the first for President Bush."

An editorial carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA said it confirmed that the United States did not wish to establish a rational relationship with Iran.

IRNA quoted Abrar as saying the Western press coverage indicated that the event went beyond Iran and the region to U.S. intelligence networks throughout the world.

"Having sensed the development, the West and especially the U.S. hastily moved to talk about a military coup attempt in Iran and subsequent arrest of several military officers."

"The idea is to attribute all these developments in Iran as part of a power struggle," the editorial said.

"One such move was a BBC report that most of those arrested are Iranians and not Americans and many personnel of the navy,"

it said. "This move too aimed at portraying the issue as a domestic one."

"By stating that those arrested are Iranians the Western media want to cleanse the hands of the U.S. in this affair," Abrar said.

"In a similar move, Radio Israel and the Voice of America tried to link the uncovering of the spy ring to a military coup," it added.

"The U.S. presidential spokesman said whenever Tehran was in need of world attention, it resorted to such claims."

"Political analysts consider these premature reactions a consequence of dizziness caused by the latest blow on the U.S. and the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," Abrar said.

The English-language daily Kayhan International, usually hardline on foreign policy, said the Iranagate scandal has not yet been forgotten and there were still questions about Bush's involvement.

"However, with the latest incident Washington finds itself in a bigger scandal," it said.

"The U.S. politicians, the self-proclaimed human rights activists, will find it difficult to justify establishment of a ring of espionage in a sovereign state as Iran," Kayhan said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
16:00	Children of the World
16:05	News summary in Arabic
16:15	World News
16:20	Arabic series
16:25	Local programme
16:30	Programme review
16:35	Arabic series
16:40	News in Arabic
16:45	Arabic series
16:50	Programme review
16:55	Monday Forum
17:00	Variety Show
17:05	News summary in Arabic
17:10	Variety show (cont'd)
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:05	News in French
18:10	Weekly Sports magazine
18:15	News in Hebrew
18:20	Variety
18:25	Kate and Alice
18:30	Thirty Something
18:35	News in English
18:40	Jack and Mike
PRAYER TIMES	
03:30	Fajr
04:30	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:34	Dhuhr
15:12	Asr

18:15	Maghrib
19:38	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiech Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Ternesian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683325	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811293	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605	
The Church of Jesus Christ at Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 812645	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Another drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly	

GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Overseas Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport.....	08-53200

ZARQA:	
Zarqa Gov. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Rn Siza Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Rn Al Nafesa Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

HOSPITALS

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81261332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	64428106
Al-Shaikh Maternity, J. Amn	6444122
Jabal Amman Maternity	642262
Majlis, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	669331
University Hospital	645845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	6072779
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Army, Marka	89161153
Queen Alia Hospital	60240909
Telephone Information	66240155

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10	Aqaba (RJ)
09:10	Damascus (RJ)
09:50	Cairo (RJ)
09:50	Amman (RJ)
09:40	Kuwait (RJ)

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CABLE OF THANKS: Participants in the two-day meeting of the central council of the Arab International Labour Federation (AILF) Sunday, cabled thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to them during their meetings in Amman (Petra).

CROSSING BRIDGES: Public Security Department sources said that the crossing of the King Hussein bridge and the Prince Muhammad Bridge during Tuesday and Wednesday, the 25 and 26 of April will be as follows: on April 25 the bridges will be open until 10 a.m. so as to allow the crossing of 750 passengers on the King Hussein bridge and 350 passengers on the Prince Muhammad bridge. The two bridges will be closed after these numbers have crossed. On April 26, the two bridges will be completely closed, and traffic will be as usual on the morning of April 27 (Petra).

SOCIOLOGY: The Yarmouk University participated in the third conference of the Arab Sociology Association held in Cairo last week. Dr. Atef Obaidat, from the department of human and social sciences at the university, presented to the conference a research paper on religion and the social change in the Arab society. The conference also discussed a number of research papers dealing with the relations of religion to politics, law, economy, media and culture (Petra).

SEMINAR: A specialised scientific seminar on the advantages of the use of white corn in fodder mixtures was organised by the American Fodder Grain Council. Participating in the two-day seminar, under the patronage of the minister of supply, were owners of fodder factories and agricultural companies, animal herders and chicken farmers (Petra).

BUDGET: Ma'in budget for the year 1989 has amounted to JD 52,809, including an allocation of JD 4,500 for street lighting, JD 1,028 for acquisition of land, JD 5,000 for the construction of a number of streets, and JD 15,400 for the construction of boundary walls (Petra).

INVITATION: Jordan's ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid Sunday met with Syrian Minister of Energy and extended to him an invitation by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib to visit Jordan during the second half of May. The visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral cooperation in the fields of electricity and mineral resources (Petra).

CHEMISTS DAY: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Al Hammouri will attend the special celebration held by the Jordan Chemists Association to mark World Chemists Day on Monday. On the occasion, a book exhibition will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre where the audience will be able to listen to scientific lectures (Petra).

MAYORS: Preparations will be made to hold a symposium for mayors, audit bureau controllers, and the municipality's finance officers to discuss the relation between the local councils and the audit bureau and their joint responsibility, according to a decision taken Sunday after a meeting at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Secretary General Awad Al Tal, Audit Bureau's secretary general, mayors of Irbid, Madaba and Mafrqa and a number of municipal finance officers (Petra).

ARAB ORGANISATIONS: Amman will be the venue for a three-day meeting of the working Arab group, emanating from the nine-member Arab ministerial committee, to discuss conditions of the common Arab League institutions. The group will discuss a formula whereby some branches or units of Arab organisations will be integrated to avoid duplication of work in the specialised Arab organisations. Taking part in the group's meetings which start in Amman Monday will be Governor of Syria Bank Mohammad Al Shari, Tayyeh Al Sa'idi from Algerian foreign ministry, Arab Organisations for Administrative Development's Secretary General Naser Al Sayegh and Director of Economic cooperation and export promotion at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Assem Hindawi (Sawt Al Shaab).



Minister of Transport and Telecommunication Khaleel Al Haj Hassan (with glasses) Sunday receives the visiting Iraqi delegation and reviews with them transport relations between the two countries (Petra photo).

Jordan, Iraq ease land transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed that all Jordanian vehicles operating between Jordan and Baghdad be exempted from all fees and charges, which Iraq used to collect from Jordanian public transport vehicles, similar to the facilities and exemptions offered by Jordan to Iraqi vehicles.

The agreement was announced Sunday during a meeting between Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaleel Al Haj Hassan and Fayez Abdul Rasool, head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of

the follow up committee which has been formed to oversee the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Higher Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee. Haj Hassan reviewed with Abdul Rasool the outcome of the talks currently underway between the Jordanian and Iraqi teams on issues pertaining to linking the two countries with a railroad.

Haj Hassan hailed the existing cooperation between both countries in the various fields, particularly in the transport sector.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbara later received the Iraqi delegation and the two sides reviewed trade ties between the two countries. Tabbara also discussed with them means of increasing export of Jordanian products to the Iraqi markets.

Yarmouk season begins

IRBID (J.T.) — The Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology has completed an excavation season at the ancient site of Qom within the Beit Ras district, and work is now going on at Abul Thawab and Ain Ghazal and Basta sites, according to Dr. Mu'awieh Ibrahim, the institute director.

Mu'awieh told Al Rai Arabic daily that the Qom excavations carried out in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities resulted in the recovery of a whole floor of mosaics which according to initial studies had served as part of a building set up during the Umayyad era on a Byzantine building.

Referring to the digs at Beit Ras, he said that the site contains Roman and Byzantine as well as Ottoman remains. In May, Ibrahim

said excavation work will start on Abul Thawab site in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Department of Antiquities and the archaeologists will focus their attention on unearthing of the site in the course of the second part of the excavation work which started in 1984.

The different artefacts which include pots, sculptures and remains of agricultural settlement dating back to the Byzantine, Roman, Islamic and Ottoman eras.

At Ghazal and Al Basta ancient sites, Ibrahim noted, various tools, jewellery, dolls, pots and other items were found. He said most of the artefacts are kept by the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and some are displayed at the University of Jordan's museum.

Teacher training

AMMAN (Petra) — Classes will begin at the newly established teacher training college in Karak as of June, according to the college dean Afif Abdul Rahman.

The college aims to train teachers and improve their performance in the various majors. The committee will accommodate 270 students from Maan, Tafleh, Karak, Mazar Qasr and Aqaba, who will be studying the various subjects, including Arabic, Islamic education, English, mathematics.

Following the successful completion of the credit hours, students will graduate with a bachelor degree in arts.

Two similar university colleges are now in operation in Amman and Irbid, in implementation of the educational development plan resolutions.

Al Amin reviews progress in Amman development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, who is also chairman of the Amman region development council, said Sunday that expenditures on the various development projects in the Amman Governorate last year amounted to JD 38.5 million of which JD 33 million were spent on social and service projects including JD 12.8 million on municipalities, that is 33 per cent of the total actual expenditure, followed by the housing, education and health which represented 24.9, 19.9 and 7.2 per cent respectively.

Amin said that the infrastructure projects within the Greater Amman region accounted for JD 5.4 million, which is 26.5 per cent of the planned investment in this sector, while water projects accounted for JD 3.1 million, followed by energy JD 2 million.

Amin cited the telephone network extension project in Amman, the replacement and improvement of the water network also in Amman, illumination of highways and the construction of agricultural and rural roads as the most important projects carried out during last year in Greater Amman region.

The governor added that Madaba ranked second in terms of actual expenditure during the reporting period. He pointed out that the follow up reports have shown that Madaba has spent JD 7.4 million, a figure representing 10.6 per cent of the gross governorate expenditure. The projects carried out in Madaba covered both social and service-oriented projects. The social and service projects were carried out at a cost of JD 4 million, followed by education at JD 3 million. The projects included the development of Madaba hospital, building of health centres, carrying out school construction and completion of Madaba district premises.

Talking about expenditures in Naour area, Amin said planned investments were JD 5.3 million, while actual expenditure amounted to JD 1.3 million, of which JD 1.1 million were spent on social and service-oriented projects, while the balance was spent on infrastructure projects.

On Sahab area, the fourth development area within Amman region, Amin said that the planned expenditure was JD 4.8 million, while the actual expenses totalled JD 3 million.

Amin noted that the private sector's contribution to Greater Amman investment projects was the highest in the Kingdom while the public sector's contribution to the governorate's areas was much higher than that of the private sector. He pointed out that the private sector's contribution amounted to JD 2.9 million, thus falling short of the estimated proportion of JD 5 million, as expected by the plan.

Shomari considered as wildlife research centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of world organisations concerned with the conservation of nature are contemplating the idea of transforming the Shomari wildlife reserve in Jordan into a centre for conducting scientific research for producing improved breeds of animals threatened with extinction and to supply such animals to Arab countries in the region, according to Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Muasher's statement which appeared in the local press Sunday served as a comment on a current campaign being launched by the Duke of Edinburgh to raise \$60 million in five years to help promote the drive to protect wildlife around the world and produce new breeds for wildlife reserves.

Jordan has been among the foremost countries of the world which directed its attention to safeguarding wildlife and has created seven reserves to attain that goal, Muasher noted.

Muasher referred to Jordan's efforts for repatriating the Arabian oryx and other animals threatened with extinction at Jordan's Shomari wildlife reserve within the Azraq region. Earlier this month, Muasher announced that the RSCN was involved in preparing a 13-part television programme on the environment in Jordan in cooperation with Jordan television and local writers in a bid to promote the drive to protect the Jordanian environment, reduce pollution and safeguard wildlife.

He said that the RSCN is also striving to establish a wildlife

museum in Jordan in a bid to focus attention on the need to protect and preserve all types of plants and animals and highlight the country's natural history.

Towards the end of last year the RSCN repatriated to Zuhbiya wildlife reserve near Ajloun a number of Persian fallow deer and the roe deer which have been absent for some 100 years due to degradation of their natural habitat by man.

The deer is an endangered species, with only some 200 animals surviving worldwide. The RSCN has constructed deer breeding units at the reserve as well as living quarters and office space for caretakers and staff. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed \$100,000 to the project.

Hear the economists' view

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As demonstrations erupted in several cities in southern Jordan and at the University of Jordan, economists explained events that led to the government announcement on April 16 that increased the prices of several goods and services and which ultimately triggered the two days of rioting.

The four economists interviewed said that by implementing these measures, the government hopes to decrease local consumption, to increase exports and to decrease imports, thereby increasing government revenue which in turn would decrease the budget deficit (22 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP)).

The government in agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seeks to reduce public expenditure and to increase revenues to the treasury in an attempt to cut deficit prior to Jordan receiving any additional loans from the IMF.

Arab unfulfilment of aid pledges to Jordan and the fall in expatriate remittances are considered by the government as the two main reasons behind the present economic problems. The economists interviewed agreed on a third reason: Overspending.

They agreed that Jordan has for many years been living beyond its means and that it became necessary to take drastic measures to reduce expenditure and to increase revenues.

University of Jordan professor of economics Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman explains: "When government expenditure is more than its revenue, there is deficit in the budget."

He says Jordan has had a deficit for a number of years, due to government "overborrowing" from both international bank institutions and local commercial banks.

"Borrowing from the latter type of bank means that Jordan must pay a high rate of interest."

So now as the saying goes, "we must face the music," Abdul Rahman says.

Both Abdul Rahman and columnist Dr. Fahed Al Faneek believe that the government by imposing the austerity measures, would raise JD 39 million to cover the budget deficit, or "at least narrow the gap," according to Abdul Rahman.

Faneek believes the government can decrease budget deficit by reducing public expenses. "They have increased taxes to increase revenues. But, we have not yet seen a reduction of government expenses," Faneek says.

He suggests that the government "writes off" all public corporations and institutions which had proven to be "more costly and less efficient."

Dr. Munir Hamarneh from the Council of Arab Economic Unity and Dr. Abdullah Malki, president of the Banks Association, see the measures as steps to cutting imports and increasing exports, which in turn would inject further funds into the treasury.

"Given the overall objectives of the measures, they will have a favourable impact. They will cut consumption and imports," Malki says.

Hamarneh also sees the measures as affecting the economy.

He explained that the devaluation of the dinar and the increase of prices of several goods and services over the past six months and recently, combined with the stability of wages throughout this period have decreased consumers' purchasing power by "fifty per cent." This applies, in particular, to all wage earners.

"The dinar devaluation makes exports cheaper and imports more expensive," Hamarneh says. But, this policy, he says, will affect "home demand" and "home growth."

"Since the demand on our home production will decrease, local prices will increase. Already a kilo of tomatoes is over half a dinar," he says, adding, "but, to the outside, tomatoes will be cheap because of the dinar devaluation."

Therefore, he asks, how can the aspire for increase of four per cent in GDP, which can only be achieved by increasing goods and services, and the government, aim of economic restructuring, be accomplished.

Effects on people

On the effects of these measures on the Jordanian citizen and the country, two more points of view emerged. Faneek and Malki say that there would be no change in spending habits or that only some sectors of society would be effected until the society as a whole adjusts to the changes.

"The main burden will be on the middle class because they had a high standard of living (which they won't be able to maintain) because their salaries have not increased and therefore, their purchasing power is less," Faneek says.

He says the poorer classes will not be severely effected by the increase in prices of petrol, alcohol, cigarettes, jet fuel, fuel oil, soft drinks, barley, oats, asphalt, car licence fees, telephone calls and irrigation water because, "most of these goods are" not meant for the poor... they are meant for the upper classes."

Malki does not believe that consumers' ability to consume will change immediately, especially in this case since the products are "inelastic," meaning that they are essential goods which will be bought regardless of

price changes. Only a small percentage of the population would cease to buy inelastic goods.

"Propensity (ability) to consume changes over a long period of time. Immediate change is not acceptable in economic analysis," he said. Consumers will continue spending the same in aggregate expenditure, but may substitute some goods for less expensive ones.

On the other hand, Hamarneh and Abdul Rahman believe that as the government narrows down its deficit of JD 39 million, the end result for the Jordanian citizen would be "disastrous," especially for the poorer classes.

Both economists expect the measures to create difficulties in terms of purchasing goods for "all Jordanian families... except for the extremely small sector at the top of the social strata."

Increased cost

According to Hamarneh the government austerity measures will increase the cost of investment in the Kingdom. "Recent price hikes on goods and services will have an inevitable effect on the prices of other goods and services. For example the price of fuel, necessary for production and industry, went up... this means that the price of the product will also go up."

"If we add this to the cost of production, which is already high due to the high costs of transportation and labour, then our product becomes less competitive outside and Jordan becomes unattractive to the investor," Hamarneh said.

Jordan does not have any "unique" product, which would be competitive regardless of the price, Hamarneh believes, pointing out that Jordan's fruit and vegetable exports face strong competition from Turkey and other Arab states.

Exports, under discussion, exclude Jordan's potash, phosphates and fertilisers. These are controlled by the international market and have no effect on the home demand, he continued.

As a result of this projected decrease in investment opportunities, Hamarneh says unemployment will inevitably rise. He asks, "how can these measures face rising unemployment and the payment of debt services and (at the same time) form conditions for real growth?"

Abdul Rahman also points out to the present high rate of unemployment and compares it to five years ago "when we did not have a high rate of unemployment." Since they will be the hardest hit by unemployment and price increases Abdul Rahman believes that the "poor will become poorer" and will carry the burden of these measures.

Absolute poverty?
"Priority has now been given to

the government budget, rather than the individual's budget. So the prices on goods have increased without any wage increases," said Abdul Rahman. These measures, he says, may create "absolute poverty" in the country.

"We have had relative poverty in Jordan, but now I think some sectors of society are moving towards absolute poverty, whereby their income will not be enough for sustaining life," said Abdul Rahman. Both economists contend that with the rising number of poor, "economic and social difficulties, including a rise in the number of burglaries, are bound to follow."

The future

So what is expected in the near future in terms of further price increases?

Faneek believes that there might be a rise in the prices of the basic food commodities, which include bread, rice, sugar, and meat.

Eventually, salaries may "rise slightly," he says. "Salaries here follow prices. Instead of the other way around because we do not have labour strength."

"If the government raises prices by 15 per cent, salaries, much later, may rise three per cent in order to make the (economic) adjustment (required by the measures)," he says.

Although Abdul Rahman agrees with Faneek that rising prices is counterproductive to the government measures, he says that since the dinar has lost 50-55 per cent of its purchasing power, "and since a compensation in wages of the same amount is not realistic, an increase of say 10 per cent is (necessary)."

He, unlike Faneek, believes that basic food subsidies would be removed after Ramadan, "already one kilogramme of milk is JD 1 up from .720 fils and the price of cooking fat (samneh) has risen."

"I think what has been done could be one way to increase revenues, but the decision-makers must bear in mind the catastrophic consequences for the lower brackets of income if they take further measures such as increasing the prices of essential goods," Abdul Rahman said.

This manoeuvring space will allow decision-makers to further curtail imports and to tax luxury goods such as liquors and cigars. What Hamarneh considers to be the "most dangerous element" is the "officially directed inflation" in Jordan. According to him, no longer is the Jordanian market controlled by the normal mechanisms of supply and demand, rather the government "chooses how to allocate the inflation."

"This will reflect on the whole economy, not just the individual

By Hind Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

A Child's Writing on a Wall — a successful play

William Wordsworth once said "all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings. It takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity." This saying describes the powerful emotions emitted by the play "A Child's Writing on a Wall" currently being held at the Ahliyyah School for Girls under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The script is director Samar Dudin Karajah's interpretation of Mahmoud Shkair's works. With the help of her drama students, Karajah has improvised on Shkair's collection of short stories for children, "The Soldier and the Doll."

Lubna Al Nijawi plays the role of Amineh, the protagonist. The story is about how Amineh, a 7-year-old, undergoes a critical experience. For the first time in her life, she is faced with complex concepts such as occupation, oppression, the meaning of a

homeland, and soldiers.

The play explores the reasoning of a child who had never been exposed to violence. Amineh tries to understand the meaning of each concept by discussing the situation that she finds herself in with her two best friends.

All is a youth who rebels against the occupying forces, and it is he who generates the action by his association and interaction with Amineh. Through him, the little girl learns that the homeland is her doll, her home and everything that she holds dear. The destruction of her doll by Zionist soldiers symbolises the destructive effect of Zionism on Palestine.

The play is filled with chorus-like scenes. These consist of young girls mimicking the action which takes place on stage. Karajah who is also the choreographer, utilises hand and body movements to express the highly charged scenes. The outstretched hands, the resisting walls — depicted only by hand movement — the self-hugging postures, all portray a sense of bleakness and anguish frustration.

Karajah explains that she is interested in assimilating the children's natural motions. "During creative movement classes, I jot down certain words and movements which I see a child do." So, the choreography is basically composed of all children's self-expressions. She says, "theorising while working with these age groups can sometimes complicate matters, disharmonising is the essence behind the words. In my opinion, the emotional medium begins before speech, and before thought."

The age groups participating in the play are seven to ten years for girls, and 15 to 16 years for boys, who come from The Bishop School. Their roles are mainly those of the occupying soldiers and of an imprisoned father figure.

Very little stage props are used in the show. As a matter of fact they are not needed since the focus is on the physical and verbal action taking place in the foreground. Shiam Snobar, stage and costumes designer, dresses the chorus in symbolic colours of wine red, black, green and white. Light effects, managed by a fellow student, result in simple impressions which do not detract from the spontaneous flow of movement.

As the play progresses, more and more signs denoting fidelity to the land spread. These are hung by the rebelling youth, "All, and when the play reach its climax, these signs get scattered all over the stage. Symbolism plays a great role in presentation: When the soldiers kill Ali, the signs are torn off the walls and shredded to pieces.

Music also plays its role. In the opening scene, the chorus sings violently and turbulently. Marcelle Khalifeh's sounds of crying children and gun shots can be heard in the background. This is reflected in the crouched bodies

and slouched shoulders. Saba Al Ghoul, a 9th grader, continues the show with her own piano variations of the same music.

The language employed by the actors is colloquial Arabic. Karajah believes it to be a more spontaneous medium for children. The tone of voice also plays a great part in projecting the emotions produced by the interaction of characters with each other. For example, Amineh's young friend, Firas, played by Sayf Al Taher, shows fury as he spits out words against the Zionist soldiers.

The director said that she intended this play to be a personal representation of an experience which we, as Arabs, can identify with.

"A lot of the plays that our children see nowadays are based on Western culture. Very little is related to the experience of our children in this part of the world. This play is based on a child's conception of certain ideas. Not enough is done on a personal level to bring plays closer to our kids."

Samar Dudin Karajah feels that children need to be listened to more often, and she gets the chance to do so in her drama classes.

In "A Child's Writing on a Wall" the kids reacted positively to Shkair's stories. The reason for this is that he portrays a child's innocence in a language that is easy for kids to understand. The writer tries to show the way a child perceives his home, the occupation and soldiers.

Karajah finds working with these kids quite an experience. She explains that the play was created in two sections: The first half of the rehearsal concentrated on emotion, identification with the character and situation. This process was more of an educational experience in the sense that the actors listened to the music and were taught to see through it as well as to feel with it. The second half constituted the communicative skills in the script. "I feel that a director's role in a school play is not to create actors; but rather to try to expose his students to human situations so that they can communicate it to the audience."

Moreover, the purpose of this play is not mere entertainment. It is a communicative art that uses lines, shapes, and words backed by strong emotion. From this production it is apparent that these young kids have reached a point where they can appreciate and understand a verbal and non-verbal art form.

Morning performances for schools are on Monday and Tuesday, April 24, 25. There will be an afternoon show on Wednesday for the public. Tickets are for 500 fils.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architectural Development in European Cities," displaying photos depicting architectural development since medieval ages, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architecture in Jordanian Country-side" by Ammar Khammash at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of books and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.
- ★ A scientific book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ★ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- ★ An Iraqi film entitled "The Game" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 9:00 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "Un Si Jolie Petite Plage" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Death Dreams" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FOLKLORE

- ★ Performances by folk groups depicting traditional songs and dances at the Roman Amphitheatre down town Amman after 8 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جورن التيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The Afghan quagmire — who pays the price?

THE WORLD heaved a sigh of deep relief when the Soviet Union completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan in February as Moscow fulfilled its part of the bargain made in Geneva last May. It gave rise to hopes that some kind of formula could be found to settle the conflict once and for all. But now, three months after the Soviets packed up and left, the Afghan situation remains as precarious as ever, if not more complicated.

The fresh threat rearing its head is of a regional war. The latest sounds of war coming from the long-running Afghan-Pakistan feud over the internal strife in Afghanistan cannot be dismissed as just another round of rhetoric. Quiet simply, the ingredients for a war are all there and in place. Granted that the possibility of the Kabul government opting for an open war with Pakistan is far remote, we cannot overlook the chance that alleged border incursions and skirmishes from both sides could push the two neighbours into a no-option-but-war situation.

No doubt, some of the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan and Pakistan would only be too happy to join the bandwagon, seen in light of the traditional political dictum in the Western Asian region which, rightly or wrongly, dictates that external tension is a medicine to internal strife. And internal strife is not in short supply in any of the countries in the region either.

Leaving aside the issue of an Afghan-Pakistani war for a moment, we cannot but raise concern over the plight of the millions of Afghan refugees who have already paid a very high price in blood for the superpower race for regional supremacy that ignited the Afghan conflict 10 years ago. Their hopes of returning to a peaceful home have been dealt a serious blow by the stand-off between the rebel fighters and the Kabul regime.

Many pundits see the answer to the entire problem in an abandonment by Moscow of its quest to protect its political interests in Afghanistan. But, where would that leave the ruling party in Kabul, not to mention the civilian residents of the Afghan capital who may or may not have any affiliation to any party involved in the conflict?

Much as one balks at the thought of internationalising the Afghan conflict, there appears to be no choice but a new external effort at convincing the Afghan rebels to accept the reality that their brothers in Kabul had been as vulnerable as they themselves were to foreign influence and both were the victims of strings pulled by outside forces, whether communist or Western. For once, and indeed for the most crucial reasons, the two sides should seek common grounds. Until and unless that ground is not found, it would be their own people who will continue to pay the price.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday tackle the press conference at which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent explained the government's position and outlined the situation in the Kingdom in the wake of rioting in some parts of the country. Al Ra'i daily echoed the Prince's statement that there can be no leniency with those elements that try to tamper with the country's security and his determination to put an end to anarchy. At the same time the paper emphasised the Prince's proposal of holding a national economic conference to discuss ways of handling the national economy and new measures that can settle the issue. The paper stressed the Regent's call for a dialogue between the government and the representatives of the local councils and citizens which serves as the best means for arriving at a solution. Violence can by no means achieve anything for any party and dialogue should be the language for communication and dealings among the members of the same family, the paper stressed. It said that the economic measures taken by the government aimed at revitalising the national economy and they call for sacrifice on the part of all citizens and public sectors if the desired objective is to be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on proposals for holding an Arab summit and refers to Prince Hassan's statement in which he expressed Jordan's readiness to attend. Jordan has always been for any summit at the leaders level, which represents the highest channel of communications among those responsible for the Arab Nation, Ibrahim Sakikjha writes. He says that in his response to Morocco's call for the summit meeting, Prince Hassan voiced the views of the Arab Nation and presented an outline of the various topics that should be tackled by the Arab leaders. Jordan has always been advocating a unity of ranks in the Arab World particularly with regard to the Palestine problem, the common issue and the problem that has been obsessing the world community for more than four decades, the writer adds. He says that Jordan which has a long and hard experience in handling this issue holds very important views and can contribute most effectively in any summit that tackles the Palestine issue and other questions of interest to the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily stressed that dialogue among the members of the Jordanian family remains as the most effective measure for solving problems. The paper referred to Prince Hassan's statement at the news conference in which he reaffirmed the need to end rioting and prevent the enemy from exploiting such situations. Jordan as Prince Hassan said is not used to violence and has always advocated the course of dialogue and negotiation and therefore can not condone actions of sabotage and destruction of public installations and public property, the paper noted. The paper said that Prince Hassan's proposal for an economic conference is a welcome idea since it will offer the public an open forum for discussion and for arriving at solutions.

Chinese students — won some, lost some

By Andrew Roche
Reuters

PEKING — Peking students admitted a tactical defeat on Saturday after an extraordinary 20-hour protest for democratic freedoms, but succeeded in humiliating authorities on the most hallowed ground of Chinese Communism.

In a society where historical symbols often count for more than concrete events, they temporarily wrested from the party establishment some of its most sacred images and slogans — not least its claim to represent the Chinese masses.

On Saturday afternoon 50,000 of them at last filed away from Tiananmen square having failed to force a face-to-face dialogue with Premier Li Peng. They said they sought to avoid a clash with police and bloodshed.

"You could call this a defeat. We have not achieved any of our aims," one student representative said.

But they had made a mockery of an official ban on political demonstrations and forced senior officials to take shelter behind a human wall of 2,000 police.

They turned the words of China's state constitution back on its authors with banners quoting its guarantees of freedom of speech, association and assembly.

Perhaps most crucially, they won a large and sympathetic audience from Peking's usually cautious public. Workers cheered their mass night marches, bus drivers tooted horns in encouragement and housewives called out: "Well done. You are China's best hope."

The huge demonstration and mourning for former party chief

Hu Yaobang dwarfed his official memorial ceremony in the heavily-guarded Great Hall of the People next to the square. Hu's death one week ago was the trigger for the current wave of unrest.

Forced to resign in 1987 by party hardliners who accused him of allowing the spread of "bourgeois liberalism," or Western political ideas, Hu has in death acquired a following among intellectuals far greater than he enjoyed in life.

Students have called for his posthumous rehabilitation as well as freedom of speech and the press, disclosure of the personal wealth of state and party leaders and a government condemnation of leftist ideological campaigns in the 1980s.

"You praise the dead to curse the living," one onlooker in Tiananmen square said, quoting a Chinese proverb. Demonstrators

smashed hundreds of bottles in a punning attack on paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, whose name sounds like the Chinese for "little bottle."

One student poster at Peking University this week declared: "A true man is dead. False ones are still living."

Others bitterly satirised the calibre of top politicians. "Required qualifications to be a state leader: Minimum age 80, maximum educational level primary school, no brain," said one. Deng is 84.

Official reaction to Peking's week of unrest has, compared with previous pro-democracy campaigns, been restrained. Apart from one incident on Wednesday, when police beat a group of students, and scuffles when they tried to push into party and government headquarters, little attempt has been made to

enforce decrees against political marches.

But some observers interpret the failure to quell the unrest as a sign of confusion rather than tolerance among the leadership. "They do not know what to do. The students cannot be arrested for mourning. And their political slogans are obviously popular," one Western diplomat said.

Zhao Ziyang, who succeeded Hu as party chief, made no mention of the student movement or the reasons for Hu's downfall in an official memorial speech on Saturday but called on the party and nation to "turn grief into strength."

"Zhao did not say enough. If he had only said something, anything, about Hu's dismissal, it might have been enough to defuse much of the unrest," one Chinese schoolteacher said. Students said late on Saturday

they planned a nationwide university classroom strike, and a copy of an open letter signed by about 100 senior academics appeared on the Peking University campus. It called on China's ruling state council not to use repressive measures to stamp out the demonstrations.

Such support — from their own teachers, and many of the general public — sets this wave of protest aside from previous unrest such as that of late 1986, when students often appeared isolated, naive and ineffectual.

"This would never have happened five years ago. China is changing, people are less and less afraid of the party. We have crossed a threshold," said a Peking factory worker, marching with the students past clapping residents of central Peking on Friday night.

15 years on, Portugal's 'carnation revolution' is wilting

By Colin McSevery
Reuters

LISBON — Fifteen years after a leftist rebellion restored democracy to Portugal, the last blooms of the "carnation revolution" are wilting under the glare of a government devoted to private enterprise.

On April 25, 1974, a popular uprising led by army officers ended almost half a century of right-wing dictatorship.

Most of Portugal took to the streets that warm spring morning and cheering crowds pushed red carnations down the rifle-barrels of soldiers as they marched in celebration through the capital.

The enduring image of gun and flower proved an apt symbol. Although the impact of the revolution was far-reaching both at home and in Portugal's African colonies, virtually no blood was spilled.

But the Portugal of today, a stable European Community (EC) member since 1986, bears little resemblance to the turbulent, revolutionary society that emerged in the mid-70s.

"The business climate here is now basically as good as in any country," said Carl Edlund, a Swedish wood pulp executive who has lived in Portugal for five years.

Changed days from just over a decade ago when frightened businessmen fled abroad as a string of governments, flushed with revolutionary fervour, nationalised most of the economy and handed huge rural estates over to the peasants.

Elections soon showed that most Portuguese preferred Western-style democracy although the last legacies of the revolution are only now facing oblivion.

Landowners and industrialists have returned, their confidence boosted by Anibal Cavaco Silva's free-market government which is poised to "de-politicise" the Marxist-inspired constitution and sell off state industries.

The stock exchange, closed for two years after the revolution, is expanding after a decade of stagnation as foreign investment soars and the economy grows each year by around four per cent.

New companies — from banking and insurance to publishing and real estate — are emerging virtually every week to stake a claim in a market straining to meet the boom in demand.

The transformation from idealistic austerity to consumerism is reflected in the media which now give lavish coverage to the local "jet-set" flaunting their wealth at society parties and balls.

Stressing that only private enterprise can galvanise the EC's poorest country, Prime Minister Cavaco Silva said: "Our duty is to get the state out of where it doesn't belong and compete equally with our European partners."

The once-powerful Communists — their vote halved in recent years — rage impotently against the unprecedented parliamentary majority won by the Social Democrats in July 1987.

"These planned constitutional reforms are nothing less than an assault on the democratic rights won by ordinary people in the April 25th revolution," said veteran Communist leader

Alvaro Cunhal.

The government and moderate Socialist Party have forged a parliamentary pact to ensure the two-thirds majority needed for changes in the constitution.

The document, currently being debated by parliament, will be stripped of clauses committing Portugal to "a Socialist path" and enshrining the state takeovers as "irreversible gains of the working-classes."

The reforms, scheduled to become law by the autumn, allow the government to sell off all its shares in nationalised companies rather than the current limit of 49 per cent.

"Our new constitution will at last bring Portugal into line with other Western democracies," Cavaco Silva said.

Ironically, as president Mario Soares savours Tuesday's "freedom day" military parade through Lisbon the folk hero of the rebellion that shaped modern Portugal languishes in jail.

Colonel Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, who led the uprising and later ran unsuccessfully for president, was found guilty in 1987 of being the "intellectual author" of a terrorist group claiming to uphold the true ideals of the revolution.

The nature of the charges and the severity of the sentence — 18 years — have aroused a chorus of protests from jurists and radicals at home and abroad.

Many people are dismayed that those they see as the torturers of the Salazar dictatorship are now walking free while the central figure of the revolution is all but forgotten in jail.

"The Portuguese seem to have short memories," said Otelo who is still awaiting the results of a final appeal against his conviction.

BUDAPEST, Hungary: Collecting signatures to influence the decision-making process is fast becoming fashionable in Hungary. And it is beginning to yield results, particularly on environmental issues.

Last month, Prime Minister M. Nemeth finally gave in to public pressure and agreed to hold a referendum to determine the future of a controversial Danube River project. The plan is to build a huge dam to generate hydro-electric power.

Last year, a section of the ruling Communist Party initiated a drive to collect signatures from people supporting the dam. Parliament also voted in favour of the dam last October.

But the Nagymaros Committee, a coalition of 22 independent environmental citizens' groups, responded with 180,000 opposing signatures, demanding a referendum on the issue. Although the Hungarian constitution allows referenda, none have been held to date.

So far, the Nagymaros petition seems to have had more of a political effect than legal one. It has demonstrated the determination and resolve of the Greens, who are often called Blues because of the Danube.

The dam, which will be built on one of the most beautiful stretches of the Danube, began to trigger off citizen protests as early as 1984, when "glasnost" — openness in government — was an unknown word. At that time, more than 10,000 signatures, including those of several scientists, were col-

Hungarian government yields to Greens

By András Biró

A huge dam being built on the Danube River has mobilised Greens in Hungary. Giving in to public pressure, the Prime Minister has agreed to hold a referendum to decide the future of the plan.

lected in opposition to the project.

The story actually goes back to the industrialisation frenzy of the late-1950s when Hungary and neighbouring Czechoslovakia signed an agreement to exploit the resources of the Danube. The treaty, long shelved for financial reasons, was dug up and revitalised in the early 1970s.

It was not, however, until the 1980s that construction of the dam commenced on the Slovak side, even though the Hungarians continued to drag their feet. Finally, Austria whose own Greens managed to stop a similar project further upstream signed an agreement with the Hungarian government last year to finance its part of the two-pronged dam system, thereby effectively exporting its "capitalist" environmental problems into a socialist country.

After the many environmental catastrophes caused by similar dam projects in the last 30 years, Hungarians are now beginning to understand the huge negative implications of such an enterprise. The most important freshwater resource in this part of Europe will be threatened. The resulting ecological imbalance will endanger human settlements and rare species. An exceptionally beautiful site will be destroyed. Invaluable Roman and medieval architectural relics will be flooded. And, as if all this were not enough, Hungary will have to repay its Austrian creditor in kind, after completion of the dam. The fee: the export of the project's entire electricity output for 20 years.

Since last spring, public reaction to the project has started to build up. In May 1988, about 8,000 people marched to the Au-

striar embassy, asking for an immediate halt of that country's investment. This was followed in September by a protest by up to 40,000 people in front of the Hungarian Parliament building. The parliamentary vote in October did little to stifle this trend in public opinion. In fact, the petition demanding a referendum was initiated in response to this very legislation.

Economic conditions in Hungary are far from rosy. The country's per capita foreign debt is one of the highest in the world, and new taxes, coupled with the slow rate of change into a market economy, have depressed living standards.

Politics, on the other hand, is thriving: opposition parties and groupings have come into being, and the road towards a plural democracy has been opened up by the reformist wing of the ruling party.

As far as Hungarian public opinion is concerned, the issue of the Nagymaros dam has become the touchstone of democracy. And with the announcement of a referendum to be held in early summer, the efforts of voluntary groups seem to be paying off.

But since then, a television report has publicised the quiet continuation of work on the site — and a new wave of protest is brewing. Whatever the results of the coming referendum, one fact has emerged: environmental issues have become central to politics in this part of the world — Panos features.

North Korea's 'great leader'

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

PYONGYANG — A pause, a hush, the lights brightened and the "great leader" made his entrance to rapturous applause from thousands of delegates.

Kim Il-Sung, leader of Communist North Korea since its founding in 1948, and its president since 1972, spoke.

The audience punctuated his speech with applause as Kim denounced "the old forces of neo-colonialism... and their plundering of developing countries."

After delivering his address to a peace conference held recently in North Korea's biggest assembly hall, Kim sat down and with an avuncular gesture brought the clapping to a close.

Ruling one of the most isolated and secretive countries in the world, Kim maintains a personal-

ity cult to rival the men who helped him get and keep power — Josef Stalin of the Soviet Union and China's Mao Tse-tung.

His portrait adorns the lapels of most of his 20 million people, watches over them in homes, hotel rooms, trains and subway cars. Countless statues and murals commemorate his deeds. A lane painted yellow in the middle of major roads is reserved for him and his son.

This week, thousands will go to a giant bronze statue of Kim, which stands on a hill dominating the capital, to lay flowers and bow in birthday tribute.

Schoolchildren will receive new uniforms as a gift from Kim to mark his 77th birthday on April 15.

An international arts festival is being held in Pyongyang and will climax with a performance for the president by the two best troupes.

Festivities and a banquet will be held, though not on the scale of last September, when a million people took part in an emotional display to mark North Korea's 40th anniversary.

Such emotion, orchestrated or spontaneous, is hard to comprehend for the few Western visitors allowed into North Korea. Kim is described in God-like terms in the official media, "the sun of mankind who illuminates the state."

State television shows a stream of foreigners bringing gifts to the "great leader." A commentator spoke with a voice in awe. Museums around the country are filled with presents given by foreigners to Kim.

Towering over Pyongyang is the 150-metre tower of the Juche idea, unveiled on Kim's 70th birthday in 1982.

Juche, the guiding ideology of

North Korea, was created by Kim as a philosophy of independence and self-reliance.

"Our people built this tower... out of a unanimous desire and firm will to have his revolutionary exploits remembered for all ages and to fight resolutely for the ultimate victory of the Juche cause," explained an official guide.

Speaking privately, a Korean who returned to Pyongyang from abroad said the education system was similar to that of pre-war Japan, inculcating patriotism and fierce loyalty for the national leader.

Western diplomats say that Kim, dismayed at the post-bumous denunciations of Stalin and Mao, is attempting to ensure that the dramatic reversals that have taken place in China and the Soviet Union do not happen in his country.

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Nomadic bedouin settle

Turning the tide of poverty

By Farid Oufi

Farid Oufi is the WFP Director of Operations in Egypt.

EGYPT — The Arab Republic of Egypt sprawls across an area of one million square kilometres, yet most Egyptians live in relatively small areas, clustered around the River Nile and its delta. About 95 per cent of the population lives on only six per cent of the land.

The 500,000 bedouin are a tiny fraction of the country's 50 million people, but because they inhabit the arid and semi-arid, sparsely-populated regions of the north-western coast and Sinai peninsula, there is plenty of land to go around. Their unique socio-economic structures are adapted to life in a harsh environment which forces them to rely on scarce resources. Grazing and farming must be done on poor land because they have no other options for survival. They are so poor they cannot look beyond securing their daily bread.

The bedouin preserve their social and cultural integrity within a society based on kinship groups and tribal usages. Traditionally, land is divided among various bedouin tribes, and each tribe member knows the specific area where his animals can graze.

Such a way of life poses problems for the modern nation state. Because of the bedouin's nomadic nature, no census can be carried out, making it difficult to provide them with even the most basic health and educational services. Food is always in short supply because no delivery system can service a nomadic people.

The government has a development strategy which is attempting to help the bedouin become more self-sufficient and yet remain in their familiar environment. The idea is to give them access to land and services which will allow them to undertake income-generating activities. If an individual bedouin cultivates the land successfully with income-producing crops, he can obtain legal title to a maximum of 200 feddans — 84 hectares — per family. In doing so, the bedouin will turn his sense of belonging from "nature" to the "nation" and will contribute, through dryland rehabilitation and farming, towards the national economy.

First, build a cistern

Since 1977, in Egypt's north-western coastal area, the Egyptian government, with WFP assistance, has been helping bedouin families to settle down. Unlike more conventional "new

towns," these bedouin settlements are based on a free choice of desert land.

Each bedouin family choosing to abandon the nomadic life is first required to construct a Roman-type cistern of 300 cubic metres which is enough to hold rain water to irrigate at least five feddans of fruit trees and meet a family's annual needs. Although little known outside the desert, cisterns are a promising, low-cost technology for the use and conservation of scarce water supply. The Romans used them in this area thousands of years ago and the government of Egypt still rehabilitates these ancient relics for public use.

The second step is to undertake water-harvesting activities by building stone dikes in alignment with the contour of the land. This allows more rain water to seep into the soil, thereby restoring land degraded by wind erosion. Only then does a bedouin family receive its fruit seedlings at subsidised cost.

After a year or so, when the family has demonstrated evidence of its will to stay on, it is helped to obtain the project's biggest attraction — home ownership. Once the house is built and the family settled, the family can expand its farm to a maximum of ten feddans and receive title to the land at a token price.

Throughout the various stages of the farming unit's development, the bedouin family, through local cooperatives, has access to government cash support, loans, services and facilities. The family also receives WFP rations of such basic commodities as wheat flour, edible oil and canned meat or cheese. The food does not undermine bedouin pride because the rations received are provided strictly on the basis of work accomplished.

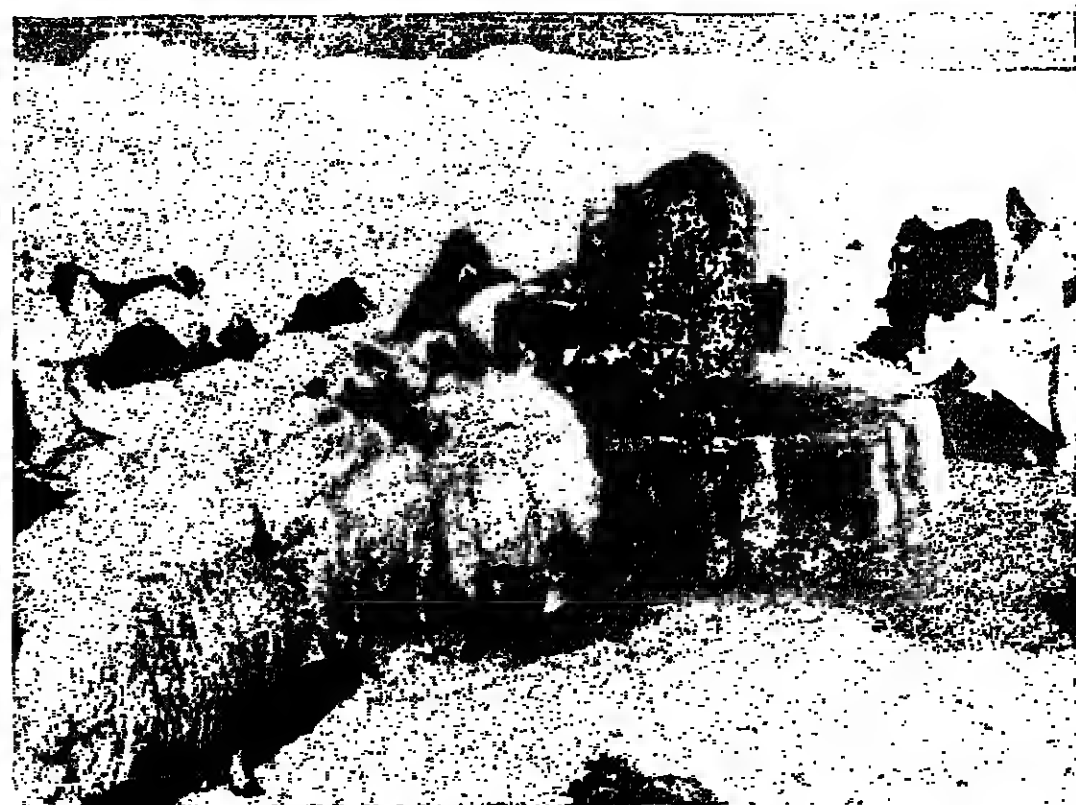
The government strategy is working well. In ten years, about 10,000 hectares of desert land have been planted with fig and olive trees and cultivated with vegetables by some 27,500 bedouin families. These families have improved their income and helped reverse the area's ecological degradation. They have built thousands of cisterns. Many were installed into rocky land, proof of the settlers' enormous strength and, above, all, will and determination. Most families have abandoned tent living and now live in stone houses they build themselves.

This development strategy is also working for bedouin women.

In the government-sponsored handicraft-training programme, trainees receive WFP-supported food rations as an incentive. So



Thanks to improved irrigation, farmers can grow more diverse crop, such as melons, on previously unproductive land.



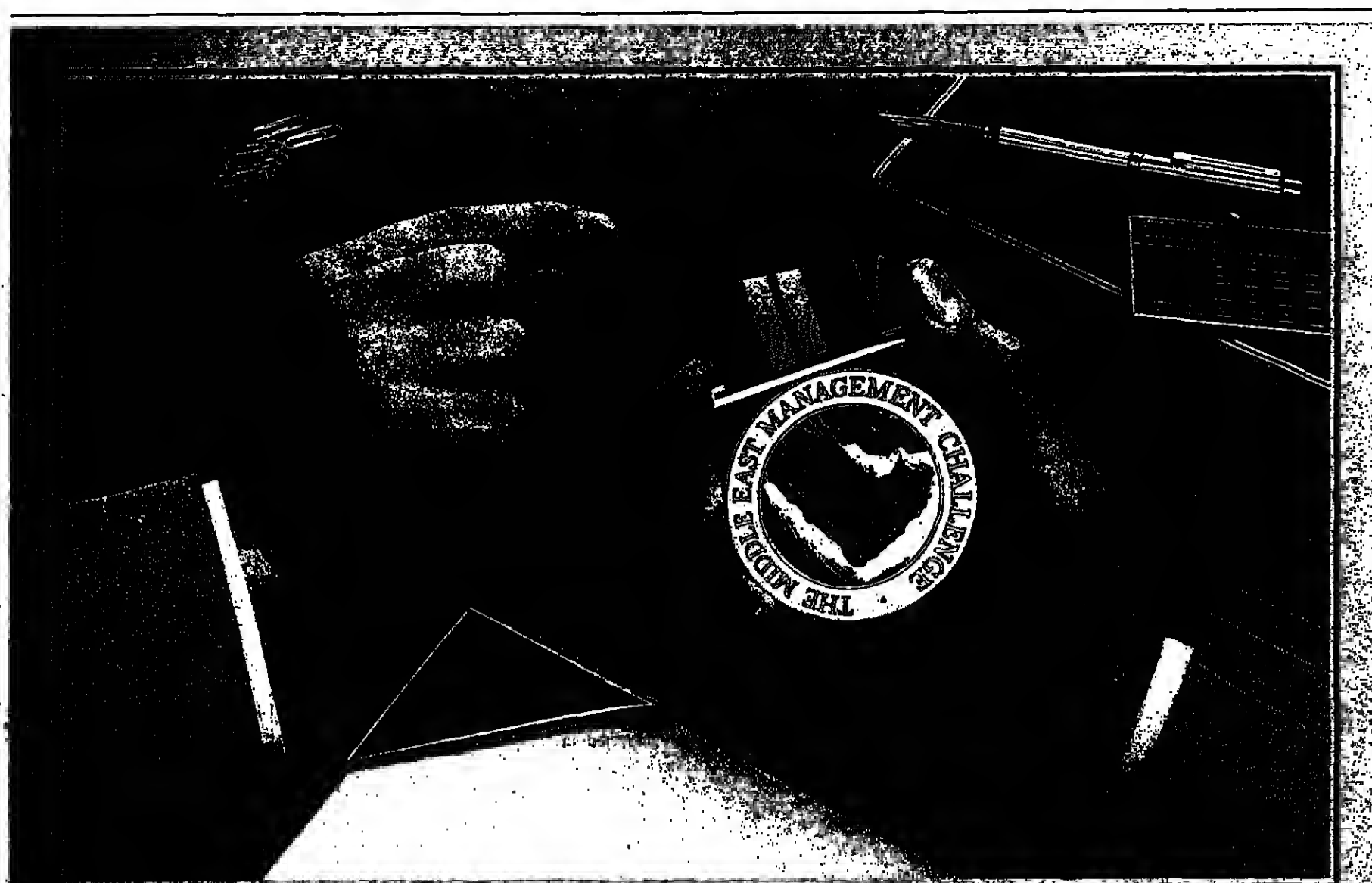
The number of sheep and goats have increased thanks to the efforts made to conserve the scarce water supply. This cistern was built in Roman times.

far, some 2,000 girls and women have completed the programme. Today, you can purchase colourful, woven kelims (rugs) in Marza Matrouh made by bedouin women. Their high-quality work is also sold in tourist shops.

Food is not merely being distributed, it is also generating cash. The beneficiaries of food aid pay 25 per cent of the local value of the rations given to them, for food-for-work activities. The money collected is spent on developing their settlements. It is being used to construct cooperative storehouses, classrooms, first-aid dispensaries and for short-term credit to buy sheep and goats of improved breeds.

The long-term success of the settlement programme will depend upon maintaining a stable dryland farming system and integrating agricultural activities with animal production. Hence, government strategy is now entering into a new phase. Consultants working in the area proposed a grazing management system to handle 750,000 sheep and goats, more than double the estimated capacity of the range. One solution could be to gradually replace local flocks with cross-breeds which tolerate desert environments, require less feed and yield more milk and meat.

The strategy that has encouraged a large group of bedouin in the north-western desert of Egypt to embrace a sedentary life has excited the interest of their distant kin in the Sinai peninsula. The government has quickly responded, putting into place a development project, also with WFP assistance, modelled on the activities carried out in the north-western desert. Bedouin sheikhs from both sides are exchanging visits in order to learn from each other's experience. Thus, a bridge has been constructed linking two related communities hundreds of miles apart — World Food Programme Journal.



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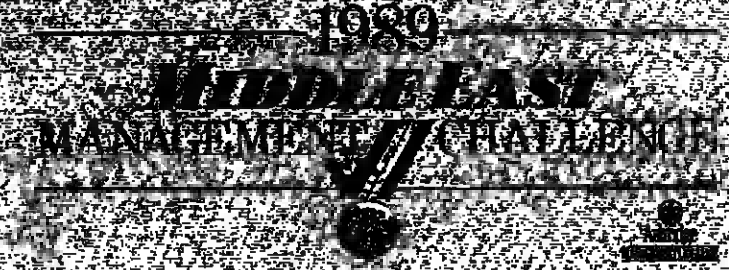
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Laos opens its doors to tourists

By Jeremy Wagstaff
Reuters

LUANG PRABANG — The Tham Ding caves, home to thousands of historic Buddhas, can be reached by climbing a half-mile flight of steps leading up from the Mekong River Bank.

Laos, newly reopened to tourists, does not flaunt its treasures.

The many religious statues and miniatures in the caves — stored there in the 17th century when the Lao King replaced them with new ones — are only accessible by boat along the Mekong River, some two hours and 20 kilometres upstream from the former Lodian royal capital of Luang Prabang.

They are now one of several attractions on package tours offered by the government as they tentatively open up this reclusive Communist country to the outside world.

Last year, Laos announced it would welcome tourists to the landlocked country, most of which had been shut to outsiders during three decades of civil war and 13 years of Communist rule.

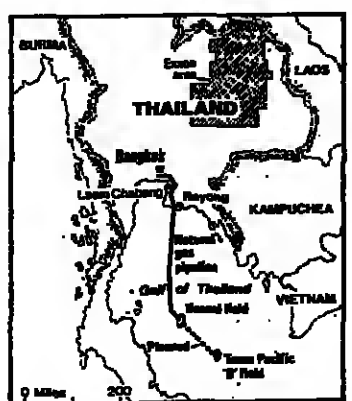
Until recently, there was only a trickle of tour groups.

"They've been talking about it a long time but now it really seems to be taking off," one western aid official said.

The quiet city of Luang Prabang, hidden among the northern mountains at the confluence of the Mekong and Khane rivers, tops the list of places to visit.

The city's chief English-speaking guide said she had shown 220 people around the city since groups began coming three months ago.

The city was home to six centuries of kings until 1977, when Savang Vatthana, deposed after



the Communist takeover two years earlier but kept on as adviser, was accused of supporting right-wing rebels and deported to a re-education camp in a remote northern province.

His fate has been one of Laos' long-discussed mysteries.

Provincial Governor Vongphet Saikun-Yachongtana, sitting under portraits of Marx, Lenin and Ho Chi Minh in the former residence of the French colonial governor, confirmed the king was dead.

"We consider him to be part of the history of the Lao people," the governor said.

Luang Prabang's colonial streets, its Buddhist temples and buildings are dilapidated.

The city's only hotel up to international standards is the French build Phu Vao.

There are plans to increase the number of flights between Luang Prabang and the country's capital Vientiane, 200 kilometres to the south.

For the moment, passengers wait in the Luang Prabang airport's only building — which doubles as the post office — for the ageing Russian-built Antonov

Aircraft that comes four times a week.

In Vientiane, tour groups from Italy, Hong Kong and Japan tumbled in the lobby of the city's main hotel, the Lane Xang, over the few minibuses available.

A lone backpacker from Australia who wandered in said he had come over on the ferry from Thailand by claiming he was a businessman dealing in rubber.

Laotian officials hope these visitors are harbingers of a tourism boom which will bring hard currency to the impoverished country.

Six hundred tourists came last year, according to the state tourism company, and some 2,000 are expected in 1989.

"That's about equal to what we had in the decade 1975 to 1985," a spokesman said.

Some Laotians and long-term foreign residents fear the influx could have unplanned effects on a reclusive country coming to grips with economic and political liberalisation.

"Once you open the window, you have no control over what will come in," one Laotian said.

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Official data shows growing problems for Soviet economy

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet wages grew more than twice as fast as productivity in the first quarter of 1989, further aggravating unsatisfied domestic demand for consumer goods, official data has showed.

Nikolai Belov, first deputy chairman of the state statistics committee Goskomstat, speaking at a news conference, also reported statistics showing a slowdown in industrial production, a decline in exports and an increase in imports.

The figures appeared to confirm that the Kremlin's liberalising economic reforms, criticised by some Soviet economists as half-hearted, have been unable to bring a quick solution to the country's mounting economic problems.

In the short term, at least, the greater freedom the reforms have given state enterprises to set wage levels for their workers has apparently exacerbated the economic imbalance, which Belov described as "a very alarming phenomenon."

Below said average wages grew at an annualised 9.4 per cent in the first three months of 1989, while productivity grew by just 4.5 per cent.

"The Soviet economy is going through a complicated, sometimes contradictory process," Belov said, although he maintained that the main tendency was positive.

"It is necessary to control the growth of money incomes so it is in line with the growth of productivity," he noted.

In particular Belov said plans were being made to introduce a coefficient tying wage increases to productivity increases at state enterprises at which the majority of citizens work.

He said there were also plans to modify taxation, which would also help curb disposable income of the 1.7 million people — out of a total workforce of 120 million — who are employed in the booming cooperative sector.

The jump in wages — which at an average 234 roubles (\$377) per month are still extremely low by the standards of other industrialised countries — has further exacerbated the imbalance between supply and demand in the economy.

Production of consumer goods rose by only 5.8 per cent in the same period, while total savings at banks grew by 10.8 billion roubles (\$17.4 billion) in the first quarter to reach a level of 307.5 billion roubles (\$496.0 billion).

The growth in savings — seen as a partial indicator of unsatisfied demand — was more than 20 per cent up on the same period last year.

Economists have been arguing for months about how to put more goods into Soviet shops, but there is concern that support for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme could be shaken by further shortages of good quality food and consumer items.

An official report released last week said an extra five billion roubles (\$8 billion) had been added to 32 billion roubles (\$51 billion) set aside under the state plan for buying consumer goods abroad this year.

Other figures given by Belov confirmed the poor state of the economy: Industrial production grew by 3.2 per cent, against five per cent in the same period last year, exports in the period were down 2.6 per cent while imports rose 1.5 per cent.

National income grew at an unchanged four per cent in the period, Belov said.

Soviet statistics, unlike Western ones, do not account for inflation.

Ideologist warns of drowning anger from flood of money

The Kremlin's chief ideologist also warned that Soviet economic reform is in danger of drowning in a flood of too much money in circulation.

Vadim Medvedev, speaking at a meeting to celebrate the 119th anniversary of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin's birth, said if the country "can't curb the stream of money that has overflowed," then the result could be "the failure of economic reform."

Medvedev was referring to the fact that Soviet citizens have lots of money but little to buy in the stores. As a result, new shipments of consumer goods sell out quickly and many items are hard to find.

Medvedev, the member of the ruling Politburo responsible for ideology, culture and propaganda, said that "without a hard, stable rouble, the whole system of economic regulators cannot work."

The Soviet rouble-exchange rate is set by the government at \$1.62 per rouble, but the black market rate is 12 cents to 25 cents per rouble.

Medvedev also said the move toward a more market-oriented economy is proceeding slower than desired. Factories are supposed to be developing their own suppliers and customers instead

of depending on centralised allocations.

He also cited pricing and the government deficit as key problems. Soviet prices are set by bureaucrats with no regard to cost of production. The budget deficit is estimated at 100 billion roubles (\$160 billion) this year.

The ideologist emphasised the justice of paying people according to their ability and output. President Gorbachev also has said the old system of encouraging equality must end.

"Demagogic calls to equalise everything and everybody are alien to socialism," Medvedev said.

Medvedev has come out in favour of a moderate course for perestroika, saying the party is steering a course between extremists who want either no reform or too much, too fast.

U.S. paints grim picture

Meanwhile, an intelligence report released in Washington Saturday said that Soviet defence spending rose three per cent last year, despite President Gorbachev's promises to cut his military budget.

But the study also said Gorbachev was laying the groundwork for his proposed 14.2 per cent cut in defence spending.

The study said chopping military spending so sharply would require the Soviets to reduce their armed forces by more than the 500,000-troop reduction announced by Gorbachev last December.

The newly declassified report painted a grim overall picture of the Soviet economy. It said Gorbachev had been forced to slow the pace of his economic reforms and to delay such key steps as allowing the market to set wholesale and retail prices.

While the reforms have a good chance of success in the long run, they are likely to cause Gorbachev short-term political problems from consumers who want to see faster improvement and from bureaucrats who resent their loss of power over economic decision-making, the report said.

The economy was hampered by sluggish industrial and agricultural performance, disruptions and confusion over Gorbachev's reforms, and the cost of coping with the earthquake that hit Armenia last December, the report said.

"According to our estimates, the Soviet economy grew by only about 1.5 per cent in 1988 — the second straight poor yearly showing," the study said.

The cost of rebuilding Armenia will exceed the estimated \$11.2 billion price tag of cleaning up after the 1986 Chernobyl

nuclear reactor disaster, the report said.

All these factors contributed to a budget deficit that the report estimated at nine per cent of the Soviet gross national product, which is the value of all goods and services produced by an economy. Last year, the Kremlin admitted for the first time that it was running a deficit, although estimates of the amount varied among Soviet economists.

Economic problems have forced Gorbachev to back away from some programmes, and the need to provide consumer goods is compelling him to decrease defence spending, the report said.

"Soviet media indicated that the campaigns to modernise industrial plant and equipment and reform the economic system and even the once much-vaunted anticorruption campaign were not only failing, but were occasioning major disruptions," it said.

"Gorbachev remains committed to his original vision of a revitalised economy," the report said. "He has, however, apparently concluded that he cannot realise this vision as rapidly as he once thought possible, nor proceed directly along the path he initially planned to follow."

Military planes to carry fruit and vegetables

In more recent measures to improve supplies in Soviet shops, military transport aircraft are being drafted to carry fruit and vegetables.

More than 50,000 tonnes of perishable food will be carried this year, Colonel-General Vyacheslav Yefanov, Commander of Military Transport Aviation, told the official TASS news agency Saturday.

Transport problems are often partially blamed for the poor selection of food in Soviet stores. Soviet military aircraft already carry such things as earth-moving equipment, cranes, excavators and transport vehicles.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Traders assure public on food supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dealers in food supplies and merchants involved in import and export operations Saturday announced that the local markets have abundant food supplies and the consumers can buy any quantity they want at any time. Merchant representatives were speaking at a meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce with chamber President Mohammad Asfour and in the presence of senior chamber members. They said that rumours about shortages in foodstuffs are baseless and urged members of the public to refrain from hoarding food supplies as they are plentiful in the market. Asfour addressed the meeting calling for close cooperation between the merchants and the chamber on the one hand and the government on the other and stressed that the government has promised to ensure the availability of sufficient food supplies, especially basic commodities like wheat, meat, sugar and rice, at current prices.

Jordanian delegation arrives in India

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation arrived in New Delhi Saturday to pave the way for a round table meeting to be held in Amman in June to discuss Jordanian-Indian economic and trade cooperation. The delegation, led by Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan, will discuss a number of topics with Indian officials and businessmen and will deliver a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dealing with bilateral cooperation in economic fields and prospects for joint ventures that would benefit the two countries. The round table meeting in Amman, scheduled for June 12 and 13, is designed as a first step in pursuing Jordanian-Indian endeavours for stimulating trade and boosting cooperation in the economic and industrial fields. According to delegation members, the talks will be a follow up to those held in New Delhi during Prince Hassan's visit there last year.

China's foreign debt hits \$40 billion

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign debt reached \$40 billion at the end of last year, an increase of \$5 billion over mid-1988. The government is now taking measures to clamp down on foreign borrowing, which has been growing at an annual rate of 38 per cent over the past four years, the official China Daily has said. In recent weeks, the government has limited the number of financial institutions and government offices allowed to borrow abroad. Under new regulations, only 10 financial institutions are authorised to obtain foreign loans, and only the central bank, the People's Bank of China, can borrow from the International Monetary Fund. The report quoted Zhang Jialun, a senior finance ministry official in charge of debt management, as saying China's debt is still manageable. But he warned that China has taken out too many short-term, high-interest loans, and that 40 per cent of the loans are yen-denominated, adding to the financial burden because of the Japanese currency's rising value.

Iran rejects loans for reconstruction

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian minister in charge of post-war reconstruction projects has said foreign borrowing would hurt the country's independence, the Iranian news agency IRNA has

reported. "We believe foreign loans would in the long run make the country dependent with adverse effects on the aspirations of the Islamic revolution," it quoted Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh as saying. "Foreign loans will adversely affect our commitment to independence... reconstruction work is another aspect of our sacred defence in which task, I think, we should be as firm as we were in the battle fronts." Most Iranian officials have rejected borrowing abroad as a means to finance reconstruction of the country's infrastructure damaged in the eight-year-long Gulf war against Iraq. Reconstruction is estimated at several hundred billions of dollars. Mirzadeh said 10 per cent of the 6.5 billion rial (\$900 million) reconstruction budget for the current Iranian year which began March 21 would be spent as grants to farmers and cattle breeders.

Tokyo to cut frills for dignitaries

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will suggest "working visits" without ceremonies and banquets to accommodate more of the foreign dignitaries wanting to visit this country, a foreign ministry official has said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Japan cannot invite more than eight foreign dignitaries a year if each is honoured with ceremonial events at the Akasaka state guesthouse and black-tie banquets at the Imperial Palace. The official said dignitaries of more than 40 nations want to visit Tokyo, and Japan will welcome them for "working visits" if they agree to dispense with the ceremonies in favour of "practical talks."

Middle East Bank doubles profits

DUBAI (R) — Middle East Bank (MEB) reported increased profits in 1988 and said it looked forward to continued better business this year. MEB group managing director Neville Green said the bank, which has branches in Africa, the Middle East and the subcontinent, would strengthen its home base in the United Arab Emirates. Net profits for 1988 came to 3.6 million dirhams (\$980,000) after 1.6 million (\$435,000) in 1987. Provisions against bad loans rose to 46.5 million (\$12.7 million) from 39.2 million (\$10.7 million) in 1987. Green said further provisions would be made. Operating profits, before tax and provisions, rose to 69 million (\$18.8 million) from 55 million (\$15 million) on total assets of 3.38 billion (\$921 million) against 3.09 billion (\$842 million).

Iran buys Saudi wheat

LONDON (R) — Iran has bought wheat from Saudi Arabia through international traders after signs of improving relations between the two countries. Details of the wheat sale, believed to be the first from Saudi Arabia to Iran, were sketchy but traders said it involved less than 100,000 tonnes. "If there were any problem concerning diplomatic relations it (the wheat sale) would not have gone ahead," said one trader. Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran a year ago after months of acrimony following a riot in Mecca in July, 1987 in which more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed. Saudi Arabia, which pays huge subsidies to its wheat farmers, has emerged in the last two years as a major exporter of wheat to the world market. It was the sixth largest exporter of the commodity in 1987/88 with 2.435 million tonnes of exports. Iran's Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari said two weeks ago that Iran imported 2.5 million tonnes of wheat annually.

Tokyo, London and Hong Kong top world in office costs

BOSTON (AP) — Setting up a shop in Tokyo could cost a whopping \$186 a square foot (.09 square metres), while the same amount of space in Kuala Lumpur takes the small sum of \$12, says a new survey listing average prices of office space around the world.

The survey by Colliers International Property Consultants isn't intended to make the Japanese pound change course for Malaysia, but it does offer a guide

to budgeting space and funds, said Collier's President Stewart Forbes.

"Essentially we want to get some sense of how different markets compare and to be able to provide that to clients who are increasingly active in a global market," he said. "Somebody going from Boston to Tokyo needs to budget not on the basis of Boston rents, but on Tokyo."

Rounding out the top 10 were: London, \$152; Hong Kong,

\$102; Beijing, \$78; Paris, \$59; Sydney, \$58; Zurich, \$50; Boston, \$48; New York, \$47; Washington, D.C., \$47; and Moscow, \$46.

Costs, gathered partly through consultants and partly through the 1,500 real estate professionals linked to Boston-based Colliers, include average rent and operating expenses such as electricity bills.

Half of the 54 cities surveyed had rents ranging from \$20 to \$34 per square foot.

The business of finding overseas locations for U.S. firms has boomed over the past five years, said Forbes.

"Real estate has always been sort of a local business, it's almost been provincial in its outlook but as client needs became global, so, too, have local real estate firms," Forbes said.

Jim Montanari, vice president of New York-based Cushman and Wakefield, also involved in overseas commercial real estate, said the survey's top 10 matches his

experience with finding office space, although he said he would probably place New York before Boston.

The biggest headache in renting office space abroad is learning to deal with fewer resources and accepting such constraints as an average one per cent office vacancy rate in Tokyo, Montanari said.

"We're used to having multiple choices," he said. "People doing this for the first time, it's sort of shocking," he said.

Top 25 U.S. executives earn \$306 million in one year

NEW YORK (R) — The 25 highest-paid U.S. business executives together earned more than \$300 million last year, according to a survey published by Business Week magazine.

Walt Disney was an executive's magic kingdom, paying its two stars \$72 million for reversing its dismal fortunes. Chairman Michael Eisner earned \$40.1 million last year, while president

Frank Wells took home \$32.1 million.

The average chief executive officer made over \$1.13 million in salary and bonus last year, with total compensation packages including stock options topping \$2 million, a poll of 708 executives at 354 U.S. companies found.

The average top-25 executive raked in \$12.2 million, with the

top five alone grossing a total of \$131.3 million.

Tobacco and food giant RJR Nabisco Inc. recently privatised in a blockbuster buyout, took the third and fourth spots by paying \$22.7 million to Vice Chairman E.A. Horrigan Jr. and \$21.1 million to chief executive F. Ross Johnson.

After the \$24.7 billion buyout, Johnson walked away

from the company with \$53.8 million in pay, stock and benefits. Horrigan bailed out with \$45.7 million.

Gulf and Western Chairman Martin Davis, Bristol-Myers Chairman Richard Gelb and Ralston-Purina Chairman William Stritz placed fifth through seventh on the 1988 list, earning an average of \$14.4 million. Penzoil Corp. winner of a \$3

billion settlement from Texaco Inc. last year, rewarded its top officers almost as well. The energy giant captured the eighth and ninth spots with \$11.55 million for director Baine Kerr and \$11.54 million for chairman J. Hugh Liedtke.

Reebok International Chairman Paul Fireman bounded into the top 10, with total compensation of \$11.4 million.

Brazilians want wage rises to offset inflation

SAO PAULO (R) — A wave of strikes is sweeping Brazil, hitting ports, the banking sector, car industry and schools as the government struggles to keep a lid on inflation.

Government officials estimated that in the last four weeks there have been about 300 strikes.

Workers across a broad swathe of the economy are seeking pay rises to help their earnings keep pace with inflation, which has continued to rise despite a government plan launched Jan. 15 to restrain prices.

Santos, Brazil, the largest port

in Latin America, was paralysed by strikes Friday for the 11th consecutive day. The port's 8,000 dockers, checking clerks and guards walked off the job on April 11 demanding a 186 per cent pay rise.

Brazil's inflation was a record 934 per cent last year and President Jose Sarney's government is battling to control prices ahead of November presidential elections.

Under the January anti-inflation plan, the government froze prices of goods and services indefinitely, pledged to spend no more than it earns and devalued the cruzeiro.

Despite the moves, inflation has continued to spiral higher. In

February and March prices rose above government targets and workers saw their real wages fall again.

Industrialists are reluctant to meet union demands for wage increases because prices of goods and services were frozen under the government's anti-inflation plan.

"Obviously workers are going to strike if their salaries are 20 per cent behind inflation," said Roberto Jéha, a member of the Sao Paulo Federation of Industries and owner of a paper company.

"But how can industrialists meet worker demands if up to 80 per cent when they can't transfer

these increases to their products? How can we stand pressures from both the government and workers?" Jéha asked rhetorically.

On Thursday and Friday bank employees nationwide took to the streets demanding 81 per cent wage increases. Union leaders said that about 70 per cent of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro banks were closed Thursday. In Sao Paulo there were clashes between demonstrators and riot police.

Brazil's car industry, one of the biggest export earners, has been hit by an indefinite metal workers strike in Greater Sao Paulo. Local units of Ford Motor Co., Volkswagen and General Motors Corp have seen production losses amounting to \$80 million, the Jornal Do Brasil newspaper reported.

Pakistan's economic growth is estimated below target, prices have risen and the balance of payments deficit is likely to rise during the financial year ending June 30, government officials said.

They said they expected an improvement in the fiscal year beginning July 1, which they regard as crucial as it will be Prime Minister Bhutto's first full year in office.

Government spokesmen use the restoration of democracy as an argument for more aid to help, new government's development objective, which they say is to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living.

Pakistan has said it will ask for

\$3.011 billion from the annual consortium meeting. Last year's commitments amounted to \$2.7 billion.

The new package must have \$2.05 billion in project aid, \$815 million in "commodity and programme-type assistance" and \$110 million in food aid, a memorandum sent to the consortium said.

A request for aid for more than three million Afghan war refugees in Pakistan will be submitted separately.

The aid-to-Pakistan consortium includes Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway and the United States. Bhutto took office last December and adopted a previous caretaker government's budget for fiscal 1988/89 as well as an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for reforms, including cutting government subsidies on food and utility services.

The government officials forecast growth rate in gross domestic product for 1988/89 at 5.2 per cent, down from 5.9 per cent the previous year.

Growth in agriculture was likely to be 4.2 per cent against a target of almost seven per cent. They blamed the shortfalls mainly on sudden floods last September which hit rice and cotton crops and ethnic riots in the key industrial cities Karachi

Pakistan reports shortfalls, seeks more foreign help

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, seeking \$3 billion foreign aid, reported economic shortfalls in the current fiscal year but forecast a turnaround in the year from July 1.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has asked for \$300 million more than pledged last year from a World Bank-sponsored consortium meeting in Paris last week, citing the need for extra funds to help the transition to democracy.

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and Hyderabad. The memorandum to the consortium projects an inflation rate reaching 11 per cent.

This compares with the official rate of 6.3 per cent last year but Bhutto put inflation at about 18 per cent when she took office.

An unexpectedly sharp deterioration in the external terms of trade and a steep drop in remittances from Pakistanis working abroad contributed to pressure on balance of payments, the memorandum said.

It said the current account balance of payments deficit was expected to rise to about \$1.9 billion, 4.3 per cent of gross national product (GNP), compared with \$1.7 billion, 4.1 per cent of GNP, last year.

"The government expects that 1989/90 will see a turnaround in the balance of payments position reflecting a resumption in the growth of exports, a fall in imports and a slight drop in workers' remittances," it said.

Most of Bhutto's cabinet are new to government.

"The biggest problem is that they don't seem to have people with economic grasp except the prime minister herself," one economist said.

He added that Bhutto could possibly get the right advice in the future from various think tanks she has set up.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

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Central Bank official rates

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U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0
Pound Sterling	921.1	930.6
Deutsche Mark	290.7	294.2
Swiss franc	329.5	332.9
French franc	85.7	86.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	408.8	413.4
Dutch guilder	257.8	259.3
Swedish crown	85.3	86.0
Italian lire (for 100)	39.6	39.9
Belgian franc (for 10)	139.1	140.2

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

200,000 turn out to salute Tom Landry

DALLAS (R) — With bands, balloons, speeches and plaques, Dallas paid homage Saturday to Tom Landry who coached the Dallas Cowboys for 29 years but was abruptly fired in February by the American football team's new owners.

Police estimated more than 200,000 people lined the streets to cheer and applaud Landry as a hero.

The parade was delayed several times by fans who crowded out from the pavement to try to shake Landry's hand.

Landry, who led the Cowboys to 280 wins, 68 losses, and six ties, was clearly moved. He was dressed in the same business-man's hat, tie and jacket that made him a familiar sight to television audiences as he stood legs apart, arms folded on the sidelines.

"I am just overwhelmed," he said. "I don't know what to say." Arkansas oilman Jerry Jones, who on February 25 bought control of the Cowboys for a reported record-high \$180 million replaced Landry with Jimmy Johnson of the University of Miami even before the sale was publicly announced.

The firing incensed Dallas fans. The Dallas Morning News called it "a callous end to a glorious career."

President George Bush and Evangelist Billy Graham were among the hundreds of people who sent telegrams. Bob Hope telephoned—and quipped, "you have done as much for football as you have for Texas. You won so many games that a lot of people thought Tom Landry was the capital of Texas."

Two airlines gave Landry and his wife passes good for free first-class travel for life.

More than 100 present and past Cowboy players rode in the parade and attended the city hall ceremonies.

"There is not a player that I've talked to, that I know, that doesn't have respect for the man who led us for so long," said former quarterback Roger Staubach.

The Cowboys have never played a game without Landry, 64, as head coach.

The Cowboys struggled for five years when they joined the National Football League. But Landry, a defensive back for 10 years for the New York Giants, instituted a game plan called the "flex defense," and the Cowboys began to dominate.

The team had 20 consecutive winning seasons, reaching the Super Bowl five times and winning it twice and were often referred to, both at home and abroad, as "America's team."

Reserved and religious

A reserved and religious man, Landry clung to his humble image throughout the celebrations.

"I know I am not worthy of some of the things that have been said about me today," he said.

With his chin quivering with emotion, Landry told a crowd gathered at City Hall, "I'll probably never be in another parade, I may never be in another press conference again, but when I see you on the street I'll sure say hello to you."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Williams leads diving qualifiers

BOCA RATON (R) — Olympic bronze medalist Wendy Lian Williams led the qualifiers Saturday for the women's 10-metre platform finals Sunday at the U.S. Diving Championship. Williams, the defending champion, showed no signs of a torn ankle ligament suffered in January in scoring 415.38 points for her eight dives at the Mission Bay Aquatic Centre. Wendy Wyland, who captured the platform bronze medal in the 1984 Olympics, was second and Colleen (Coke) Smith, a University of Michigan senior who was sixth in last year's Olympic trials finished third among the 12 qualifiers. Dave Pichler, a Ohio State sophomore, led the men qualifiers for the platform finals with what he called his "best performance ever." Pichler scored 534.24 points to beat out Matt Scoggin by a fraction of a point.

Lewis and company miss record

WALNUT, California (R) — American Carl Lewis and his Santa Monica track club teammates came close but failed to set a world record in the 800-metre relay while winning the event at the Mt. San Antonio college relays Saturday. Lewis anchored the team to a time of one minute and 20.54 seconds, just shy of the world record of 1:20.26. "The handoff probably cost us a second," said Lewis, referring to the handoff on the final leg of the race. Lewis, who won four gold medals at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and two golds at Seoul, was joined by 20-metre gold medalist Joe Deloach of the United States. Floyd Heard and Danny Everett were the other members of the Relay team. As Everett approached for the final handoff, there appeared to be confusion over lane assignments and Lewis had to switch lanes to complete the final baton changeover.

British pay silent tribute

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — From Scotland to southern England, thousands of soccer fans paid tribute Saturday to the 95 people killed a week earlier in Europe's worst stadium disaster.

British league games kicked off at 3:06 p.m. (1406 GMT) seven days to the minute since Liverpool-Nottingham Forest cup semifinal was abandoned at a Sheffield stadium where dozens of fans were crushed in a surging crowd.

The spectators observed a minute of silence. In Sheffield, Liverpool and Nottingham, the three northern England cities united in sorrow, pedestrians halted and traffic stopped for one minute. In some areas trains halted and shops closed briefly.

In Nottingham, thousands paused in the streets and air-raid sirens were sounded.

At Sheffield's Hillsborough stadium, more than 1,000 people gathered outside the gates where a crowd of fans surged into the stands a week ago and created a crush that killed 95 Liverpool supporters.

Inside were 300 relatives and friends of those who had died. The bells of Liverpool's Metropolitan cathedral rang out at 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) and continued for six minutes.

At Anfield Stadium, home ground of the Liverpool team whose fans were killed, no game was played. Nearly half the field was carpeted with flowers, and the standing-room terraces were covered in team scarves and other tributes.

The government has set up a public inquiry into the disaster, in addition to a separate police investigation into handling of the disaster.

Berger 'slightly burnt' in 275 kph fireball

San Marino Grand Prix held up

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Austrian driver Gerhard Berger suffered minor burns but no serious injury when his Ferrari crashed into the wall and burst into flames Sunday at the San Marino Formula One Grand Prix.

Roberto Mosetto, the director of the Imola autodrome, said Berger was conscious and had suffered only minor burns. He said the driver asked doctors to remove his fire-retardant suit which had become soaked with fuel.

Berger spun off the track and into the wall at the beginning of the fourth lap at a point where the cars are travelling close to maximum speed. Track officials said his car was engulfed in flames for 23 seconds.

Track officials said firefighters reached the wreckage in 12 seconds and put the flames out 23 seconds after the accident.

At the time of the accident, Berger, who started the race in the third row, was in fifth place about nine seconds behind the leader, world champion Ayrton

Senna of Brazil in a McLaren-Honda.

The race, the second event of the world Formula One championship, was suspended after the crash and had not yet restarted 30 minutes after the accident.

Berger, who was in fifth place, failed to make the big curve at the beginning of the track just beyond the finish line. It is the same curve where Brazilian driver Nelson Piquet spun out four years ago, suffering only minor injuries.

Berger, who made his Formula One debut in 1984, has competed in 70 Grand Prix races, winning four. His last victory came last September in the Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

Berger, in fourth position after two laps, appeared to lose control of his car at the end of the straight

as he approached the long Tamborello curve.

The car went straight on off the track, across the grass verge and into the trackside barrier. It span along the barrier in a cloud of dust before coming to a halt and then bursting into flames.

About 20 seconds passed before the fire-fighting emergency services arrived to extinguish the fire.

The race was stopped with Brazilian Ayrton Senna leading his McLaren teammate Alan Prost at the time.

Berger was taken by ambulance to the circuit medical centre.

Eye witnesses reported the driver did not lose consciousness during or after the crash. He was reported to be speaking and saying that he hurt but could not describe where he was hurt.

Berger was driving at about 275 kph when the accident happened on the faster section of the circuit, close to the point where Brazilian Nelson Piquet crashed two years ago during practice.

Berger's father Hans Berger told journalists that his son not suffered any obvious injuries following a preliminary examination but had severe burns to his hands and arms.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished less than 25 seconds after Berger's car first burst into flames.

Ferrari team director Cesare Fiori, who went immediately to the medical centre, said Berger's condition was stable. He added it was remarkable the driver had not been more seriously hurt.

The race resumed after a delay of about three-quarters of an hour and was being run over 55 laps.

One of the track doctors who treated Berger told Italian television: "Berger is talking in a lucid manner. We should not be excessively worried."

He said the driver had hit his head when the Ferrari crashed and had burns to his right hand. The doctor said Berger would be taken to a local hospital for checks by a neurological surgeon.

Rookie loses chance by too much enthusiasm

NEW YORK (AP) — Atlanta rookie John Smoltz badly wanted a complete game, but he had to settle for just a win.

"It was one of those situations where I was too pumped up," he said Saturday night after pitching three-hit ball over eight innings to lead the Atlanta Braves past the San Diego Padres 5-1.

Smoltz was within three outs of his first complete game when Jose Alvarez took over to start the ninth.

"I would have liked to go the distance," Smoltz said. "I kind of figured I lost that myself. I did waste too much energy in the eighth."

Smoltz, 3-1, struck out five and walked five. He worked out of an eighth-inning jam when he issued two walks before Marvell Wynne sent Dion James to the fence for a leaping catch that ended the inning.

Ed Whitson, 2-2, allowed five hits, walked three and struck out two in six innings.

Jack Clark hit his third homer of the season in the fourth but Atlanta went ahead with a 5-4 victory over the Houston Astros. The Reds had been shut out in their previous three games.

Paul O'Neill singled home the winning run in the 10th inning. Leading Cincinnati to a 5-4 victory over the Houston Astros. The Reds had been shut out in their previous three games.

Slid Fernandez pitched four-hit ball for eight-plus innings and Keith Hernandez hit his second home run of the season as the New York Mets beat the Chicago Cubs 3-1.

Juolior Ortiz's sacrifice fly drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3.

Sabatini struggles into final

LARGO (R) — Top seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina faced a struggle, but held off fourth seeded Arantxa Sanchez of Spain 6-4, 6-4 Saturday in the semifinals of the \$200,000 Tampa Womens Open.

Sabatini advanced into Sunday's championship match, where she will meet eighth seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain. Martinez seeded 59 minutes to drug Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-0, 6-0.

Martinez, ranked 25th in the world, is optimistic about her chances to upset Sabatini.

"Sabatini looks like she is really tired," said Martinez, 17. "I have more possibilities to win now. I'm going to play like I always do. There is no pressure on me."

Although Sanchez has lost all six of her career meetings with Sabatini in straight sets, Saturday's match was highly competitive.

"Even though I lost, I enjoyed the match," Sanchez said. "She played very good. She's tough. Next time, maybe I can beat her."

Sanchez rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the second set. She won the next two games, fighting off two match points on Sabatini's serve in the ninth game.

Just when Sanchez appeared to have the momentum, Sabatini struck back. Sabatini broke Sanchez's serve at love to clinch the match.

"Sanchez has improved a lot," said Sabatini, ranked third in the world. She has a game that

bothers people a lot. I just kept fighting. I played well on the important points. That's what a top player does."

Sabatini will need to play well against Martinez, who has lost only 10 games in her four matches at the tournament.

"I am playing well right now," Martinez said. "I had perfect tactics today (against Cecchini). I was surprised by the outcome, but I played without mistakes."

Meanwhile, Cecchini said she just wanted to forget about her performance.

"I feel like I didn't even play a match," Cecchini said. "I feel like I just practiced for a half hour. She didn't miss anything the whole match. It was just me missing, missing, missing."

Wakihuri sprints to win marathon

LONDON (R) — Kenya's world champion Douglas Wakihuri surged to the front over the final 400 metres to win the ninth London marathon Sunday in a personal best two hours nine minutes and three seconds.

Wakihuri, the Olympic silver medalist, was one of a group of three who dropped the other leading contenders in the final stages of the 42.195 kms event, raced in ideal cool, overcast conditions.

Australian commonwealth bronze medalist Steve Monaghan was second in 2:09.06 and Ahmed Salah of Djibouti, one place behind Wakihuri in both the 1987 world championships and last year's Seoul Olympics, third in 2:09.09.

As the trio raced near the houses of parliament, Salah appeared to have a slight edge. But as they approached the finish on Westminster Bridge Wakihuri, who had run with impressive composure throughout, accelerated to win easily with a broad smile across his face.

Monaghan overtook Salah, who faded over the final metres.

The women's race was won by French-born Briton Veronique Marot in a personal best time of 2:25.56.

Polish champion Wanda Panfil was second with a national record time of 2:27.05 and Portugal's Aurora Cunha, who led for most of the race, was third in 2:28.11.

Wakihuri, 25, who lives in Japan and who trained in New Zealand for nine weeks before Sunday's race, later described the conditions as perfect for marathon running.

Asked what he thought of Monaghan's victory, Wakihuri replied: "He's good but he's not as good as Salah. Salah is very tough so I had to be very careful about him."

The early pace in the men's race was set by Briton Nick Rose, an experienced half-marathon exponent. Rose took the lead through the halfway stage in 1:04:42 but already it was clear that the course best of 2:08:16 was unlikely to be bettered.

At 30 km Monaghan headed a leading group of eight but the 26-year-old Australian lost 30

metres at a drinks station and Salah was able to slip to the front.

With five km to go Salah, Monaghan and Wakihuri were on their own and victory went to the man with the fastest finish.

Wakihuri is now looking forward to the northern track season, and then to next year's Commonwealth games marathon in Auckland, New Zealand.

Marot, a 33-year-old solicitor who missed the Seoul Olympics, ran a well-judged race to overhaul Cunha.

Cunha, winner of last year's Tokyo and Paris marathons, had set a fierce early pace but she faded and was pleased to hold on for their place.

Among the 30,000-plus runners taking part in the world's largest mass participation race, was a group of about 100 Liverpool soccer club supporters.

Singing the Liverpool terrace song "you'll never walk alone" they were warmly applauded by the thousands of spectators in a tribute to the 95 fans who were crushed to death in last week's Hillsborough Stadium disaster.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKING A BATH TO WIN

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 6 5 3
♥ A
♦ K J 9 5
WEST
♠ K Q 10 9
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ Q J 8 5 2
♣ 7 4
EAST
♠ K 10 9 8 3
♥ K 10 9 8 6 3
♦ K 4
SOUTH
♠ A J 4
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ Q 9 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass
5♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣

Timing is usually associated with physical sports. However, it is also vital in what the Dutch call "denk-sports,"—mind sports such as bridge and chess. Study this hand. Minor suits are the orphans of the bridge world—in duplicate bridge, they are all but forgotten. Here, however, there is no doubt that five of either minor is a better contract than three no trump.

Against five diamonds, West led the top of his broken spade sequence. As long as East can be kept off lead until the club suit is set up, declarer is safe. But what if the club king is offside?

If the club finesse is going to win, the contract is declarer-proof. If it doesn't and declarer takes the opening spade lead, draws trumps and then takes the club finesse, he will go down as the cards lie. East will win the king and revert to spades, and the defenders can score two spade tricks for down one.

Declarer can correct the timing by allowing West to hold the first trick. This maneuver, known as the Bath Coup for the English resort where it was first utilized, forces West to shift his attack or else allow declarer to win two spade tricks.

Best is to shift to a club. The safest play for declarer is to rise with the ace (to finesse risks a club ruff), draw trumps in three rounds and then force out the king of clubs. Declarer wins the spade return with the ace and discards his remaining spade on dummy's long club. In all, declarer wins two major-suit aces, five diamond tricks and four clubs, losing only a trick in each black suit.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My doctor says if I stop kissing my boss's feet, the swelling will go down in a few days."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VALEE
LELOH
BYSTUL
SUTTRY

WHAT THEY SAID IT WAS WHEN THAT RUSSIAN DANCER TURNED OUT TO BE A SPY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELOPE FRAUD TUXEDO COUSIN
Answer: What the athletes did when they found themselves in the haunted house—THEY "EXPOSED"

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS
1 Attired
5 Way
9 On one's own
13 Vex
14 Author John
15 Appeal
16 Iowa town
17 Be of use
18 Urinal
19 Chin, uprising
22 Disenchantment
23 Horse color
24 Texas caller
27 — Vegas
28 Aviator Balbo
30 Yale students
34 Present
35 Foot part
36 Harrison
37 Cyrano's love
38 Deserter
40 Very cold
41 Negative prefix
42 Lay off
44 Art and
45 Youngster
46 Antelope
47 Stravinsky
48 Literary collection
50 Riddling of poison
57 Debut
58 component
59 Happening
60 Hack
61 Sand in heridary
61 Cattle up
62 Sign
63 Beginning
64 Actress
65 Glass section

DOWN
1 Seafood
2 VIP transport
3 Author
4 Haley
5 Gobi and Sahara
6 Flit roads
7 Swirl steed
8 Those who attempt
9 Word to Doby
10 Dashes
11 Melange
12 Fanny one
13 Narrow inlet
14 Singer Frankie
15 Soundmen
16 Vigilant
17 Misadventured
18 mail
19 Bagel filling
20 Iowa religious group
21 Inner courts
22 Hear
23 Chase
24 Up-to-date
25 Country hotel
27 A Star
28 Show segment
29 Ground
30 Aircraft carrier
31 Fr. magazine
32 Ward off
33 Sp. queen
34 Equestrian jump
35 — Camera
36 Deeds
37 Extreme
38 Fr. magazine
39 Ward off

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



France on the spot over Kampuchea guns

BANGKOK (R) — France, seeking a peacemaker role in Kampuchea and expanded contacts with Indochina, has been put on the spot by reports it sent nine tonnes of weapons to opposition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris said reports that France sent arms to Sihanouk's Kampuchean guerrilla group were "totally groundless."

In Bangkok, the Thai armed forces chief-of-staff said he was equally certain the reports were true. General Sunthorn Kongsoompong told The Nation newspaper a shipment had arrived from France and was meant to boost the guerrillas' morale.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, usually loquacious on the subject of Indochina, seemed to come down on both sides at once. He questioned the veracity of the report but told reporters: "Nine tonnes of weapons are meaningless anyway."

There has been no explanation for the contradiction in the exchanges last week.

They followed statements by Western diplomats here that France was pumping in arms for the exiled prince, championed by the West as a key figure in any

Kampuchea settlement.

The diplomats said that France delivered anti-tank and automatic weapons, ammunition, radio and other equipment to a Thai military base to be handed on to Sihanouk.

Sunthorn said France had requested landing permission and passage of the weapons to Sihanouk's forces and a shipment had arrived.

The reports rattled the surface calm that masks hectic diplomatic manoeuvring over Kampuchea, whose next step is a meeting between Sihanouk and Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen in Jakarta May 2.

Diplomats said they could jeopardise France's growing efforts to regain the political initiative in its former imperial domain of Indochina and to play a pivotal role in the settlement of the 10-year conflict.

Vietnam, which announced April 5 it was pulling all its forces out of Kampuchea by September, expressed dismay at the weekend that any Western country should deliver weapons to the guerrillas at this stage.

The Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan, while carefully avoiding naming France, said any weapons supplies now would only prolong the conflict.

Fishermen skim more oil than ships in Alaska

HOMER, Alaska (R) — A huge Soviet oil-skimming ship has joined Alaskan fishermen using bait buckets to clean up oil from the worst spill in U.S. history.

Free-lance fishermen, told that Exxon Corp was offering a \$5 a gallon bounty for oil brought to five collection barges, headed their small boats out into rough seas from ports along the coast to try their luck.

A U.S. coast guard spokesman here said Saturday the fishermen, wielding buckets they normally use for bait, so far had been more productive than the 133-metre, 10,260-tonne Vaydaghysky — the world's largest oil-skimming vessel.

The Soviet ship left Seward, a fishing port south of Anchorage, two days ago, but reported its first recovery of oil only later Friday night.

"They had some problems getting started, getting their booms out in heavy seas and stuff like that," a coast guard spokesman said. "Our men on board said that so far they had picked up 500 gallons, but the captain was optimistic that he could get a lot more today."

The coast guard is monitoring the ship's activities and Exxon is paying \$15,000 a day to charter it.

So far the rag-tag bucket brigade of bounty-hunting fishermen have collected far more oil in just a few days.

Philippine rebels seek to boost anti-bases push

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels called for a national alliance Sunday to remove U.S. military bases from the Philippines.

The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) made the call two days after rebels shot dead a U.S. colonel helping President Corason Aquino's government in anti-insurgency techniques.

The rebels, said by the military to control or influence 20 per cent of the country, said they were ready to form "a progressive coalition government" with political parties, groups or individuals opposed to the presence of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

"Major traditional political parties and independent groups could form an alliance with the National Democratic Front for the immediate dismantling of the U.S. military bases and total opposition to U.S. intervention in the nation's affairs," the NDF said in a statement sent to news offices.

The NDF is an alliance of 13

underground leftist groups spearheaded by the Communist Party and its military wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Leaders of the country's traditional parties could not be reached for comment but are expected to reject the rebel offer, being anti-communist and largely conservative in outlook, political analysts said.

The NDF repeated its boast it could seize power "within the next decade."

It called on its units around the country to hasten the formation of revolutionary councils in the provinces "until the provisional revolutionary government is proclaimed."

The NDF accused the Aquino government of intensifying the insurgency war to "serve American interests."

Politicians and newspapers Sunday warned against any expansion of U.S. involvement in the anti-insurgency campaign in the wake of the killing of Colonel James Rowe.



Chinese students carrying wreaths march in Peking's Tiananmen Square in a pro-democracy memorial service for Hu Yaobang

Riots rock China

PEKING (R) — Rioting rocked two Chinese provincial capitals after the funeral of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, official reports said Sunday.

Rioters in Xian, southwest of Peking, attacked government buildings Saturday, injuring 130 armed police, the New China News Agency reported from the Shaanxi provincial capital.

No deaths were reported, the agency said.

In the southern city of Changsha, demonstrators attacked and injured police, wrecked and looted shops and "threatened the safety of lives and property," Hunan province radio said.

A Westerner said that at one point, about 1,000 people managed to enter the Communist Party headquarters in the city.

The violent anti-government protests followed a week of demonstrations in Peking in which thousands of students confronted police and government officials with demands for freedom and democracy.

More than 50,000 students Saturday defied government edicts and massed in the city's huge Tiananmen Square while the official funeral for Hu, whom the students have made the symbol of their demands, was held inside the adjacent National Congress building.

A few hours earlier, about 100,000 crowded into the square in the highest demonstration seen in the capital since 1976.

Peking students disowned the violence in the provincial cities. Western eyewitnesses said the rioting crowds were made up of an explosive mixture of the unemployed and disaffected as well as students.

"It was a chaotic mass of frustrated people," a Western resident of Changsha said. "It was the have-nots against the haves."

Witnesses said large crowds smashed shopfronts and commandeered buses and cars.

"Normally quiet people seem to have burst into an angry violent rage," the Western resident said.

Hunan was Hu's home province as well as the birthplace of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, founder of communist China who died in 1976. Both spent part of their youth in Changsha, the provincial capital.

A Chinese tourist guide arriving Sunday in Peking from Xian, an historic attraction which draws

thousands of foreign tourists annually, said the trouble started after unemployed people joined students who had gathered in the main square to mourn Hu.

A Western witness, contacted by telephone, said about 5,000 people threw stones at police who retaliated by charging with batons, beating students.

Western residents in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province in the southwest, and Nanking, national capital under the pre-communist republic, reported days of student demonstrations in Hu's honour. He died of a heart attack April 15.

Peking students Sunday stayed on their campuses to organise a nationwide classroom strike. They said campus authorities had cut off their telephone lines.

Several thousand Peking residents gathered around the monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square to read and copy down the statements, poems and eulogies to Hu posted there by student activists.

"Deng Xiaoping's officials have all got rich. Hu Yaobang's officials are all honest and upright," one handwritten poster said in a reference to China's paramount leader.

Another asked: "China, where are you going next?"

Ortega turns to Europe for help

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left on a 10-nation tour of Western Europe Saturday, saying it was a critical time for Central America's future.

"We are living at a very important moment when a space has been opened which can close if we don't act quickly," Ortega told a news conference shortly before leaving for France.

"It depends on the Central American countries and on the international community whether this space opens further or whether it closes and the economic, military and political situation in the region worsens," he said.

Ortega is making his most extensive trip to Western Europe, visiting France, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Italy, West Germany, Britain, Ireland, Norway and Sweden over more than two weeks.

He is to meet French President Francois Mitterrand Monday and later hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. It will be the leftist leader's first meeting with both Thatcher and Kohl, Europe's foremost conservative leaders.

Ortega said the main objectives of his trip were to seek international aid to help Nicaragua's war-ravaged economy and to persuade European countries to pressure Central American states and the United States to respect Central American peace accords.

Ortega signed a news media law Saturday that abolishes censorship before publication and broadcast and the indefinite closures of newspapers and radio stations.

The new code does not authorise private television stations, which had been sought by opposition groups, but "guarantees equal access to social and political groups" to government-run television. It also provides for penalties for disseminating information deemed contrary to state interests.

The law was passed Friday by the National Assembly.

Ortega signed it before leaving on a two-week tour of 11 Western European nations to seek aid for his cash-strapped Sandinista gov-



Daniel Ortega

ernment.

Ortega claimed the new law is one of the most progressive in Latin America because it does not provide for fines or permanent shutdowns of news outlets. But it does provide for temporary suspensions.

The president also said journalists work in greater security in Nicaragua than in other Central American nations, and he mentioned El Salvador, where he said they face "systematic terrorism."

"In other countries in the region, journalists, union leaders and opposition politicians are assassinated," he told reporters after signing the law.

Major provisions of the new law include:

— Penalties for disseminating information deemed contrary to the interests of the state, for "altering" government news releases, communications and other statements, and for the "transmission, diffusion, publication or projection of injurious, defamatory or false information."

— Provisions for Interior Ministry closures of up to four days. The ministry also can order offending broadcasters or publishers to issue retractions, clarifications or corrections. Broadcasters and publishers will have the right to a hearing before sanctions are applied.

Worldwide protests mark Earth Day

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of people from Hungary to Kansas marked the 20th annual Earth Day Saturday with protests against the Alaska tanker spill, ozone-depleting chemicals and other environmental concerns.

But demonstrations fizzled in Sweden and India for lack of interest, and a rally in West Germany attracted less than 100 people, officials said.

In New York City, about 1,000 demonstrators rallied at Exxon's midtown headquarters, then marched to the United Nations. Organisers estimated the crowd swelled to more than 5,000 people by the

end of the march, but police put the number at 2,500.

The Exxon tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground near Valdez, Alaska, March 24, spilling 38.2 million litres of crude oil into wildlife-rich Prince William Sound in the worst such spill in American history.

In a speech to demonstrators, activist Jeremy Rifkin said environmental politics had changed dramatically since the first Earth Day in 1970.

"All of our previous environmental crises have been regional in nature. Now we are experiencing for the first time a global environmental crisis," Rifkin said. "The greenhouse

effect, global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain and species extinction now threaten the entire planet and all the inhabitants that live in it.

"This is the first international Earth Day," he said, claiming it was the first time demonstrations were coordinated around the world.

In Rome, about 1,000 people, including 40 environmentalists, cheered as 20 protesters dressed in cardboard costumes resembling aerosol cans and refrigerators ran up the Spanish steps and smashed through a paper hoop symbolising the earth's ozone layer.

The demonstration was in-

tended to re-enact the creation of holes in the ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons.

Ozone occurs naturally in the earth's stratosphere and screens out harmful ultraviolet light from the sun. Studies have shown that chlorofluorocarbons are breaking down the protective barrier.

In Budapest's Vorosmarty Square, several hundred people turned out for a demonstration. Demonstrators included Ilona "Cicciolina" Staller, a Hungarian-born porn actress and a radical party member of Italy's parliament, and Nobel Prize-winning biophysicist Maurice H.F. Wilkins of Britain.

Near Wichita, Kansas, about 1,200 people gathered outside chemical plants owned by Racou Incorporated and Vulcan chemicals to demand they stop using chlorofluorocarbons within a year.

According to environmentalists, Racou is one of five U.S. companies that produce the chemicals and Vulcan is major supplier to those businesses.

Spokesmen for the two companies said a ban on chlorofluorocarbons is not realistic because reliable alternatives have not been found, and that the chemical industry is spending billions of dollars trying to find other substances.

U.S. Supreme Court takes up abortion issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court plans to hear arguments this week on limiting or even ending women's right to receive an abortion in the United States, taking up one of the most closely watched issues in America.

The arguments begin Wednesday in the case of a 1986 Missouri Law that prohibits the use of public funds for abortions and declares that human life begins at conception.

Missouri officials — with the backing of President George Bush — have asked the nine justices to overturn or substantially limit a landmark 1973 decision which legalised abortion.

In that ruling, known as Roe versus Wade, the Supreme Court ruled by a 7-2 vote that women have the right to receive an abortion.

Reversal of the 1973 ruling would allow the states to more stringently restrict access to abortions, or even ban virtually all abortions.

The challenge to Roe versus Wade has ignited protests across the country and flooded the court with tens of thousands of letters and hundreds of daily telephone calls.

"If Roe (versus Wade) is reversed, the nation's whole political landscape could change," said Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion

Rights Action League (NARAL).

But James Bopp, general counsel of the Anti-Abortion National Right to Life Committee, believes U.S. law governing abortion will be changed to some extent.

"Roe versus Wade is doomed at some point in the foreseeable future," he said.

The court's decision is expected by July.

Among the issues in the case is a Missouri regulation requiring doctors in some instances to determine whether the fetus is viable. If such a determination is made, the Missouri rule says the doctor must perform the abortion

in a way best designed to preserve fetal life.

An infant brought into the world after only 24 weeks of gestation faces a struggle to survive. The lungs, heart, brain, liver and digestive system are only partially formed and not yet ready to live unaided outside the womb.

Only three members of the original Roe versus Wade majority remain on the court — Justices Harry Blackmun, William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall. Each supported the 1973 decision in subsequent rulings.

Justice John Paul Stevens, who joined the court in 1975, also backs the 1973 ruling. The two

1973 dissenters, now-chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Byron White, still oppose the ruling.

Any significant retreat from Roe versus Wade will have to attract the three most junior justices — Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy. All are appointees of former president Ronald Reagan, an outspoken critic of the high court's abortion rulings.

Scalia and Kennedy have not yet ruled in any abortion cases while on the court, but they are believed to favour cutting back abortion rights. O'Connor's position on women's right to abortion is unknown.

COLUMN

Opera singer returns to Covent Garden

LONDON (R) — Spanish tenor Jose Carreras returned in triumph to London's Royal Opera House Tuesday after a three-year absence caused by his long fight against leukaemia. Carreras, 42, won at least 10 standing ovations — the first before he even began his two-hour song recital — as a packed house clapped, cheered, stamped and showered the stage with flowers. Carreras, diagnosed in 1987 as suffering from leukaemia, delighted the Covent Garden audience with a series of songs and Arias ranging from the romantic to the religious. The singer, who now devotes part of his income to an international foundation he has set up to fight leukaemia, will make a full comeback at Covent Garden at a later date.

Minnelli's dog moves bureaucracy's wheels

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A prosecutor said Tuesday he was considering whether formal charges will be filed accusing entertainer Liza Minnelli of bringing her dog into Sweden in violation of strict quarantine laws. Customs police seized Minnelli's Cairn terrier at a Stockholm hotel April 11 after her arrival on a tour with singers Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. Dogs brought to Sweden must be put in quarantine for four months, a measure credited with keeping the country free of rabies. Minnelli, who came by bus from the Netherlands, said she had been misinformed about the rules. Inspector Stig Thelberg said at the time that "Liza is guilty of smuggling" in violation of the quarantine laws. Officials allowed the dog to be sent on to Paris while Minnelli stayed to perform. Meanwhile, the investigation into the "Lilly" affair continued. "I expect to get the necessary documents from the customs police in two to three weeks, then I will decide to file charges or not," public prosecutor Bjorne Rosen said in a telephone interview. Swedish law would require Minnelli, if convicted of smuggling, to pay a fine in proportion to her income. Rosen said the American entertainer had deposited a "substantial sum of money" pending the outcome of the case, but declined to say how much.

Texas father wins support case of Soviet child

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A jurist dismissed the case against a man being sued for child support payments to a daughter living in the Soviet Union. Despite the action of special master Greg Harrison, George Hallak, a native of Palestine, said he plans to continue sending money and clothing to his 12-year-old daughter, Nelly, through friends. "It's a father's obligation," Hallak said as he held up a receipt for \$400 he sent Nelly in December. "I'm still going to care for her." Hallak, who now lives near Houston, met and married Loundmila Kasatkina while he was a student at a Moscow University. Their daughter was born in 1976. Hallak came to the United States in 1982 hoping his wife and daughter would follow. When they did not, he was granted a divorce by a Texas court in 1985. Attorney General Jim Mattox said his office took the case against Hallak at the behest of the Soviet Union's Association of Lawyers, which represents Hallak's ex-wife. Mattox said his office helps children no matter what country they live in. Hallak said he fought the lawsuit because he believes money he sends his daughter via the Soviet bureaucracy will end up in the pockets of everyone but his daughter.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	14	19	Cloudy
ATHENS	13	25	78 Cloudy
BANGKOK	23	73	34 93 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	37 89 Clear
Buenos Aires	14	57	21 89 Cloudy
Cairo	18	67	37 89 Cloudy
CHICAGO	07	45	19 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	36	11 52 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	07	45	04 38 Cloudy
GENEVA	05	37	29 41 Clear
HONG KONG	22	72	23 73 Rain
ISTANBUL	10	50	16 61 Cloudy
LONDON	08	46	10 50 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13	68	22 72 Cloudy
MADRID	04	39	20 82 Cloudy
MECCA	24	75	39 102 Cloudy
MIAMI	18	25	76 78 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	25	03 37 Cloudy
MOSCOW	10	50	18 84 Clear
NEW YORK	21	70	38 102 Cloudy
NEW YORK	05	45	13 55 Clear
PARIS	09	41	14 67 Clear
ROME	13	55	18 84 Clear
TOKYO	16	61	18 84 Rain
VIENNA	08	47	12 54 Cloudy

Scandal tour dishes up the dirt on the U.S. capital

By Anne Senior
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Amid the splendour of Washington's monuments and the pristine order of its parks, there has always been dirt to dish up and mud to sling.

The U.S. capital, planned as a citadel of American ideals, has seen its fair share of scandal — and now there is a special tour of the scenes of its disgrace.

For 124, Washington Scandal Tour takes visitors by bus to the sites of political undoing and sexual indiscretion that have rocked governments, destroyed careers and wrecked lives.

Tour guides supply a liberal dose of political satire and rumour to provide all the elements of a typical blockbuster novel — power, lust, envy and revenge.

One tour highlight is the Watergate residential complex, where a bungled break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in 1972 led to the ruin of Richard Nixon's presidency two years later.

Another stop is the townhouse where Gary Hart, then a contender for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, entertained model Donna Rice unaware that reporters were lurking outside.

The bus stops by a White House office building where

Oliver North, a former Reagan aide who has been on trial for his part in the Iran-contra affair, shredded classified documents with his loyal assistant, Fawn Hall, as investigators closed in.

The tour is the work of a Washington-based political comedy troupe known as Gross National Product (GNP). The jaunt started as an advertisement for GNP's shows but soon proved popular in its own right.

Rick London, GNP's producer, said there had been so much interest in the Saturday afternoon trip that the group plans to schedule another circuit every Sunday.

On a rainy Saturday afternoon recently, out-of-towners,

a few journalists and a West German film crew packed the bus.

"We just want to laugh a little," said Donna Daly, 33, when asked her reasons for spending \$20 on the tour. Daly, an advertising executive from Chicago, wanted something more lively than the usual tour of buildings and monuments.

Actors playing scandal-makers, schemers and assorted political figures enliven the trip.

Scandal-seekers are welcomed aboard the bus by Marilyn Monroe (actress Helen Van Hook), who was reputed to have had an affair with President John F. Kennedy (JFK). Although she is a

scandal hostess, "Monroe" gives away no secrets about her reported liaisons with JFK and his brother Robert.

Her partner for the trip is a President George Bush look-alike who leads the assembly in a pledge of allegiance to the Republican Party — rather than to the U.S. flag.

Vice President Dan Quayle, alias actor John Hargrove, makes an appearance with wife Marilyn, who despite a demure outfit looks suspiciously like the tour's other Marilyn.

"Mrs. Quayle" says she is on hand to squelch any resurgence of rumour about impropriety between her husband and a female lobbyist during a golfing trip a few years ago.

When the scandal tour first

started last summer, its star performer impersonated Ronald Reagan who was president then. The material is updated to reflect the changing political scene.

In the past the group has had a Nixon look-alike sing "The Way We Were" outside Watergate. Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis has also been caricatured.

Since Bush named his cabinet team there has been plenty of material for the tour's writers, said London. "They practically write our scripts for us," he said.

The troupe models its quick-fire humour on the sketch technique of the British comedy team Monty Python. It hopes

to set up a scandal tour in London later this year and plans similar projects in New York, Boston, Rome and Paris.

London denies that the tour is a form of mud-slinging "gutter journalism." "We're an archive," he said, adding that the tour has turned up a number of interesting facts.

For example, he said, 80 per cent of the sex scandals investigated for the tour involved Democrats, while Republican politicians were linked with 90 per cent of financial scandals.

So what does that say about American politics?

"I suppose Republicans spend a lot of time making money, and well, we can imagine the rest," said London.